April 1993

Deaf Life

$2.50

Is this *really* ours?

VOLUME V, NUMBER 10 APRIL 1993

COVER

DESIGN BY MATTHEW S. MOORE
STAMP © U.S. POSTAL SERVICE;
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THIS SUMMER, THE U.S. POSTAL Service will issue its first stamps with an ASL theme: the "I Love You" sign. Designed by Chris Calle, a hearing artist, the stamps will be in *se-tenant* (paired) format: one showing a close-up view of the ILY sign, the other showing a mother making the ILY sign to her baby.

Members of the Deaf community have mixed feelings about the stamps. In this month's cover story, Ken Rothschild, who chaired the National Association of the Deaf's ILY Stamp Committee, explains *how* a stamp representing ASL got designed and produced entirely by hearing people—a tale of communication breakdown, missed opportunities, and complicated postal politics. 36

Publisher's Note

Postage stamps, like national flags, have tremendous political, social, and cultural importance. When the U.S. Postal Service announced last fall that it was finally going to issue an "ILY" stamp, we were pleased—to a point. The new stamps are certainly colorful and attractive, and portray the ILY sign in a positive way. However, we can't overlook the glaring fact that the USPS did the whole thing over the heads and behind the backs of the Deaf community—the very people who gave the USPS the idea and lobbied for years on its behalf! There's something ironic about having an ILY/ASL stamp designed by a hearing artist and approved by an all-hearing committee. Why didn't the USPS involve the Deaf community in the project? That's the question! (Read on...)

Yes, we're pleased to see the USPS's "official" recognition of ASL. But a tremendous opportunity to recognize the work of Deaf artists has been, well, lost in the mail.

This issue also features an interview with distinguished deaf lawyer Lowell Myers. Best known for his brilliant defense of Donald Lang, a languageless, illiterate deaf man accused of murder, Myers also wrote a pioneering work on deaf rights and got a law passed in Illinois guaranteeing sign-language interpreters in the courtroom for deaf people—a law copied by several other states. I think you'll find it a worthwhile peek into the fascinating career of a lawyer who thrives on challenging cases.

Matthew S. Moore

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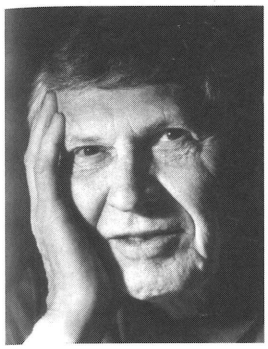

SOME THINGS CHANGED, SOME DIDN'T

■ The conclusion of Jane Maher's 3-part article on Bill Stokoe picks up with the publication of a landmark dictionary of American Sign Language, then describes how Stokoe, in an ongoing battle with the Gallaudet adminstration, was "kicked upstairs" and founded the Linguistics Research Laboratory, which he fought to keep open, only to have it closed as soon as he retired in 1984—ironically, at a time when interest in ASL research was rapidly growing. (Why? Maher explains the political hostilities involved.) Undaunted, Stokoe continued his involvement in the field, publishing and editing the respected scholarly journal he had founded, **Sign Language Studies**, and keeping very busy—as, indeed, he still is. In 1988, Stokoe received an honorary doctorate from Gallaudet—a token of the esteem in which he is held today. **12**

LEGAL EAGLE

■ Lowell Myers has made a successful career as a trial lawyer. Indeed, he is the best-known deaf lawyer in the country, with a reputation as a tough and brilliant advocate and formidable opponent. He has also succeeded in smashing stereotypes, making legal history, and furthering the cause of deaf people's rights. Among the great variety of cases he has taken on (involving hearing as well as deaf clients), he's won several that were considered "impossible to win." He talks about his remarkable career and shares some shrewd opinions, ranging from crime to legal corruption to using the Bible as a timeless legal resource. **22**

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Deaf Life

DEAF LIFE (ISSN 0898-719X) is published monthly for $30.00 per year ($42.00 outside of the U.S.) by MSM Productions, Ltd., 85 Farragut St., Rochester, NY 14611. Second-class postage paid at Rochester, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **DEAF LIFE** c/o MSM Productions, Ltd., Box 23380, Rochester, New York 14692-3380.

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LETTERS

Silent News: "irresponsible, unethical journalism"

An Open Letter to Editors of the Deaf Press

As a former journalist with **Silent News** for over a decade, recent events have compelled me to share matters of concern with members of the Deaf press. I feel I have a moral obligation to speak out on what I believe to be lapses in news judgment and journalistic ethics.

Serious questions have been raised over the style of reporting and editorializing of Mr. Tom Willard, the editor of **Silent News**. Blatant errors of facts and misstatements have found their way into his write-ups, while at the same time, important details were not presented. His failure to check the facts for accuracy or retract false statements flies in the face of established journalistic practices.

When names and reputations are dragged through the media, character and conduct called into question, and life's work is threatened, it is distressing. What's even more disturbing is Mr. Willard's refusal to print letters by aggrieved parties who wrote to tell their sides of the story or present the facts. News organizations would consider it wholly irresponsible and unethical for the other side not to be given the chance to comment on any such charges.

I'm certain many of you may have read or heard about the rather sensationalistic "Stop the Music" story and the "Thumbs Down" summation (December 1992), plus the readers' follow-up response (January 1993), which convincingly tore MJ Bienvenu apart and spawned a storm of opinion within the community as well. This extreme insinuation and unfairly harsh assessment could adversely affect MJ's reputation and her work.

Whether or not the jury is still out on MJ, she deserves a chance to defend the facts. What were omitted from the articles were the essential opinions of people who stood behind MJ, as well as the letters written in support of her. Moreover, the editor's decision not to publish MJ's letter amounts to "hitting below the belt." As Mr. Willard could be held accountable for libel, she reserves every right to take legal action against **Silent News**.

In another matter, both the "Thumbs Down" item lambasting the NAD's ILY Sign Stamp Design Committee (August 1992) and the editorial criticizing the official ILY Sign postage stamps (January 1993) have been Mr. Willard's thinly-veiled attacks directed against me. His recent condemnation of celebrities who publicly display ILY Signs grew out of his apparent resentment of my book project on celebrity ILY Signs. Nevertheless, Mr. Ken Rothschild, the Stamp Committee organizer, wrote a letter to set the whole record straight. His letter was never published.

Mr. Willard's role as editor seems to have given him the license to distort facts, manipulate truths, indulge in character assassinations, whip his readers into a feeding frenzy with negative letter-writing campaigns, and prevent innocent victims from defending themselves for the record. Using **Silent News** as a bully pulpit to besmirch the reputations, achievements, contributions, and efforts of hard-working Deaf people is not only unconscionable, it's dangerous. It does nothing but create division and hostility.

Professional conduct of a news organization is essential for the viability, credibility, and integrity of the press. Yet it embarrasses me greatly to see that my former news organization no longer serves as an example of what reporting and editorializing should be. High journalistic standards exercised elsewhere in the Deaf press should also be

exercised by **Silent News**.

Finally, while there can be no absolute guarantee that there won't be any continuation or recurrence of irresponsible, unethical journalism on behalf of **Silent News**, it is hoped that the aggrieved parties will be vindicated at some point.

Ann Silver
Seattle, WA

GLOSSARY

¶2 **blatant**: offensive and obvious
flies in the face of: (idiom) openly insults, contradicts
¶3 **aggrieved**: hurt, injured
¶4 **sensationalistic**: exaggerated, lurid
summation: brief summary; concluding statement
spawned: produced; set off
insinuation: here, an indirect negative suggestion
adversely: harmfully, negatively
¶5 **the jury is still out**: (idiom) a final decision or judgment has not yet been rendered
hitting below the belt: (idiom) in boxing, an illegal punch; here, an unfair attack
libel: here, a printed statement that damages a person by defaming her character or exposing her to ridicule
¶6 **lambasting**: (slang) whipping, beating, or scolding; to attack fiercely with words
condemnation: expressing disapproval; pronouncing judgment against; putting down
¶7 **character assassinations**: unfair printed attacks on people's reputations
feeding frenzy: (idiom) crazed mob reaction; rampage; as when sharks smell blood and throng violently together to tear a victim apart
besmirch: dishonor; make dirty, "drag through the mud"
unconscionable: excessive; unscrupulous
¶9 **vindicated**: able to clear their reputations

A moot point, or "mute" insult?

I truly enjoy reading **DEAF LIFE** and, in my opinion, you are performing a fine service to both the deaf and the hearing. "For Hearing People Only" is a splendid feature, Keep up the good work.

In the October 1992 issue you excoriate a man, and administrator, for using the word mute. ["'Mute'—again???"] If the man did use the word mute, shame on him. If, on the other hand, the man used the word moot and it was translated to be mute, thus justifying the excoriation, then shame, SHAME on you. I suspect the man used the word moot to apply to the situation or circumstance of that moment. If that be the case, then you owe the man an apology of great magnitude. There was also a cartoon that vilified the man and made him out to be a most deplorable human being. The drawing is reasonable if the chap did, in fact, say the word mute. Conversely, if the man used the word moot, then the cartoonist should fall on his knees and beg for mercy.

John E. Fletcher
Hurlock, MD

The Editors reply: *"Moot?" If only this were the case! Unfortunately,* mute, *not* moot, *was the very word used by this administrator. He even admitted this to us in a TTY conversation when we contacted him to ask for his views. (His utterly noncommittal response to the article is in our December 1992 "Letters.")*

"Moot" means "subject to debate, arguable, unresolved," or "without legal importance," as in "This is a moot point." "Mute" means "refusing or unable to use one's voice," or as an insulting term for a deaf person, as in "I see you've got a mute program here." We're satisfied that the administrator used the word "mute," not "moot," to describe a program where he saw deaf students using ASL in preference to speech or Signed English. Of course, a good number of hearing folks (and some deaf folks, too) are quite casual about using the term "mute," and seem to be unaware of its implications.

LETTERS

NTID Focus: "Where does all that money go?"

In the October 1990 issue, you wrote that "NTID, which has a Printing Production Department, does not involve any Deaf people in the writing, makeup, or production of its glossy quarterly magazine **NTID Focus**." Is this still true? Perhaps **DEAF LIFE** could look into why, despite a well-paid staff and literally millions of dollars in NTID's assets at its command, **NTID Focus** Magazine publishes a measly 30 or so pages only four times a year, while **DEAF LIFE** and **Silent News**, struggling on limited budgets, nevertheless manage to publish 60 or so pages every month, or six times as much information in the course of a year as **NTID Focus** does.

Where does all that money go?

This may seem like an irrelevant digression, but as Freud pointed out, our choice of symbols can reveal our deepest feelings. The cover of the Fall 1992 **NTID Focus** issue perfectly symbolizes what too many teachers at NTID really think of us. Magazine cover pictures of computers usually show wonderfully complex figures such as the Mandelbrot set which can be drawn only with the aid of computers. But not **NTID Focus**! Instead we see the simple-minded triangle ABC, which can be drawn with a straight ruler and compass. This picture implies that we can't handle anything more complex even with the aid of "the latest technological tools" **NTID Focus** likes to brag about. No wonder many Deaf people are fed up with the NTID administration!

PROTO-X

***Editors' note: NTID Focus** is not really for deaf people; it's a glossy public-relations tool to encourage hearing readers and families of students/alumni to support NTID. We understand that they now have one oral deaf person on the staff.*

The "real" father of ASL

You have certainly given me a wonderful tribute with Jane Maher's article in, and Lyn Johnson's photo on, your January 1993 issue. I am looking forward to the next installment. I liked your disclaimer too about "fathering" sign language. I think that honor has to go to Laurent Clerc, who on a simple untutored maiden (that is, signing in scattered sign communities, to keep up the parenting metaphor), by teaching teachers for the residential schools that sprang up after 1817 around the country, fathered a national sign language. My own role was simply discovering the maltreated and outcast orphan hovering around the outskirts of the very institutions where it had first had a home.

Thanks again for the very favorable press—something that is not always easy to come by these days; and success to your ventures.

William C. Stokoe
Silver Spring, MD

Last to know?

(The following letter was sent to ABC-TV, CBS-TV, and NBC-TV in New York City)

Dear Sir,

First, I want to tell you that I am Deaf, have lived in Manhattan for almost 18 years, and pay taxes like everyone else.

I am forced to write this letter to say how totally fed-up I am with [name of station]-TV. Especially after the explosion disaster that happened at the World Trade Center on Friday, February 26, 1993.

I was home that day and had no knowledge of the explosion until a friend faxed me from South Carolina with this terrible news. Immediately I turned on my TV for news of what hap-

pened. Sure enough, what was a big emergency news story for New York was **nothing** for us—its Deaf citizens. During an entire afternoon and evening of broadcasts there was **NO** closed- or open-captioning, **NO** on-screen sign -language interpreter, nothing! Nothing but anxious second-guessing, worry, and concern.

I was left in Media Communication Darkness until 10 PM when my friend, who can hear, arrived home and "dutifully" sign-interpreted the newscasts—bringing information to me none hours after it began. Then ABC-TV's ***Nightline*** aired, which is regularly closed-captioned.

Do you gave any idea how many Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people live in Metro-New York? Do you know how many Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people work at the World Trade Center whose families and friends were worried if they were injured?

To further insult my sensibilities and arouse my feelings of being a second-class citizen, a Deaf friend, from Connecticut, told me that she had the benefit of watching captioned news on TV all afternoon and night on Friday. It makes me very embarrassed to say that I live in New York City—a city which excludes its Deaf citizens by not making its news broadcasts totally accessible.

This disappoints and angers me. Such an inequality does not help make my living in New York to be pleasant and safe.

Alan R. Barwiolek
New York, NY

NEW! ASL VideoCourse

Learn American Sign Language with the Bravo Family!

You can make a difference... it's all in your hands.

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Learn a second language...ASL
FUN & EASY

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Lesson #3: *Where's the TV Remote?*
Lesson #4: *Let's Go Food Shopping!*
Lesson #5: *Review & Practice Session*
Lesson #6: *Colors and Fingerspelling*
Lesson #7: *A School Daze-School Signs!*
Lesson #8: *A School Daze, The Sequel*
Lesson #9: *A Trip to the Bank-$ Signs!*
Lesson #10: *Review & Practice Session*
Lesson #11: *Playing in the Park*
Lesson #12: *The Doctor Is In!-Med. Signs!*
Lesson #13: *Business as Unusual*
Lesson #14: *Let's Go Clothes Shopping!*
Lesson #15: *Review & Practice Session*

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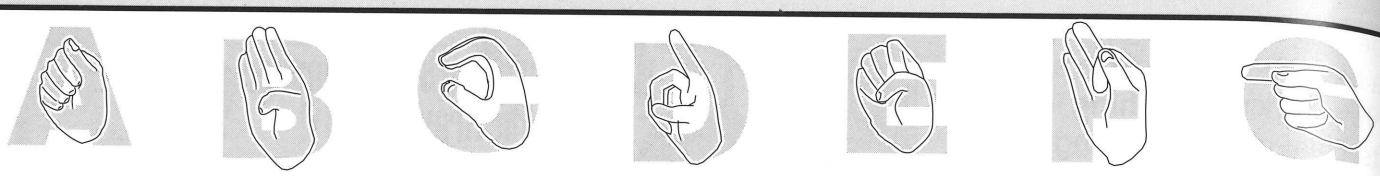

FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY™

If there is a Hearing speaker, the Deaf audience claps their hands. If there is a Deaf speaker, the Deaf audience waves their hands. But if there is a Deaf speaker and a Hearing audience who know little or nothing about Deaf culture, what should they do?

—asked by Holly Roth, Columbia, MD

Members of any audience where there is a Deaf speaker or performer *should* applaud by waving their hands, "Deaf-Culture" style. It's a matter of simple courtesy. If they applaud by clapping their hands in the conventional "Hearing" fashion, the Deaf speaker will probably *see* them and appreciate the thought—but waving-hands applause will have so much more impact and be all the more appreciated. If the intention (applause) is genuine, why not choose the vehicle that can express it most powerfully? For us, waving hands carries better. And it's not difficult to do.

When we wish to honor people of a different culture, we do it by expressing our esteem for them in their own language—or, at least, in terms they can understand. By waving their hands, Hearing audiences show that they recognize and respect the Deaf speaker as a person.

Variously known as "Deaf applause," "visual applause," or "flying hands," an audience's waving hands, hats, or handkerchiefs to signal its appreciation of a Deaf person is really an old practice, undoubtedly invented and re-invented through the centuries on the spur of the moment. There are published allusions to it going back to the mid-19th century—and we will likely uncover even earlier ones. We see these as a tribute to human ingenuity in overcoming a communication barrier.

We've already noted an 1892 description of spectators at a Washington, D.C. baseball field, delighted by the exploits of Deaf outfielder William Ellsworth "Dummy" Hoy, rising up *en masse* and "wildly waving hats and arms." Readers have shared with us a mid-19th-century reference to an audience's waving their handkerchiefs to the late-deafened Czech composer Bedrich Smetana; a 1912 report in **The Silent Worker** of an audience at the Chautauqua Institute applauding a Deaf presenter by similarly waving handkerchiefs (the "Chautauqua Salute"); and a firsthand account of a Deaf slo-pitch softball team from Edmonton, Alberta, who waved hotel dinner napkins at

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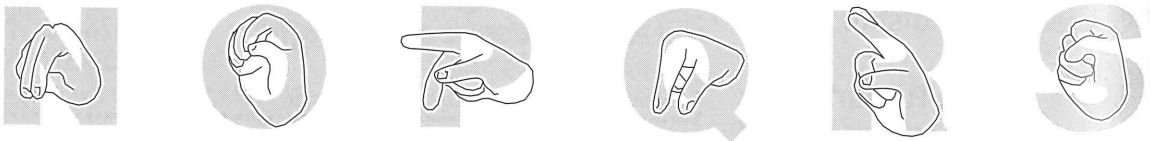

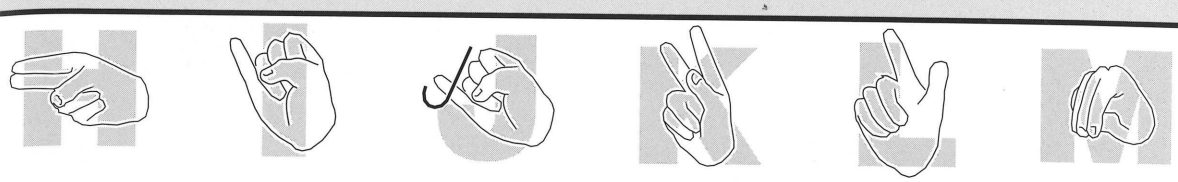

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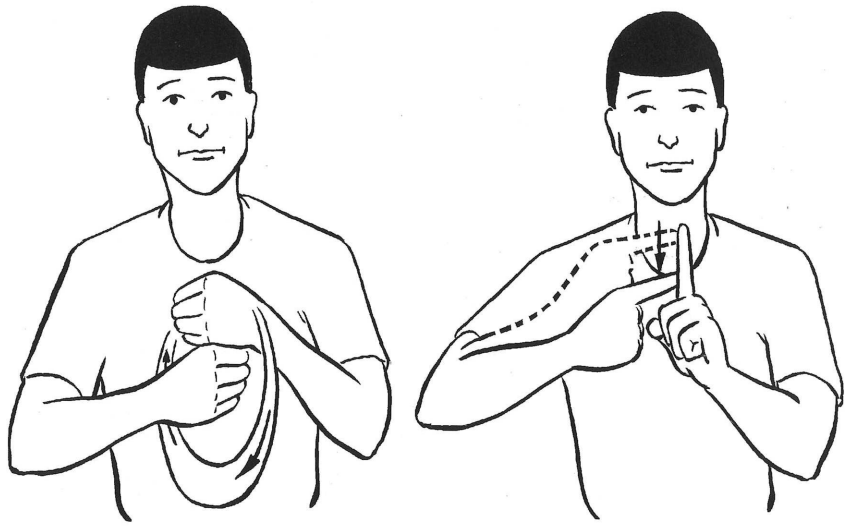
an awards banquet (1980), sparking a visual-applause trend in Canada. Participants in the National Festival of Arts of the Deaf, also in Alberta (1984), were issued "clapkerchiefs"—little pieces of imprinted cloth to be used for applauding. Those who forgot to bring them waved their hands in the air.

Likewise, "waving hands" seems to have caught on in France around the same time and spread through the Deaf community there; some U.S. visitors saw it in 1985 and brought it back. By the time of The DEAF WAY International Conference and Festival (July 1989), everybody seemed to be doing it. It spread like the proverbial wildfire because it was easy, fun, and foolproof. It makes a striking scene—even a beautiful one.

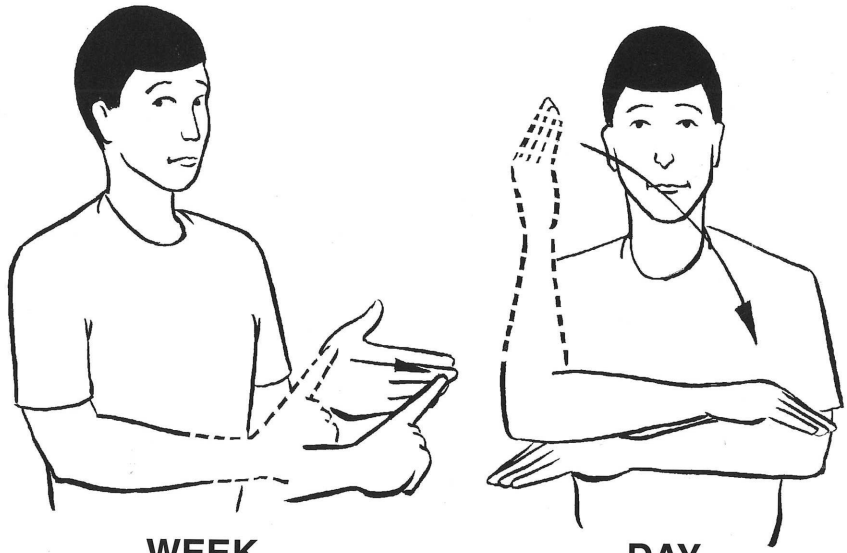
Deaf applause suits our visual orientation precisely. It doesn't demand unusual exertion (unlike clapping and shouting, which can leave you with sore hands or a hoarse throat). Any audience can clap politely (even if they're bored), but waving hands does demand kinetic participation—you *really* have to get into it, show spirit. But what better way to do it? To a Deaf person facing such an audience, a forest of waving hands is a glorious sight.

SIGNS OF THE MONTH

TIME, PART THREE



YEAR MONTH



WEEK DAY

EDITORS' NOTE: If you have any questions about the correct formation of signs or facial expressions, ask a Deaf friend (i.e., a native ASL user) or a certified sign-language teacher.

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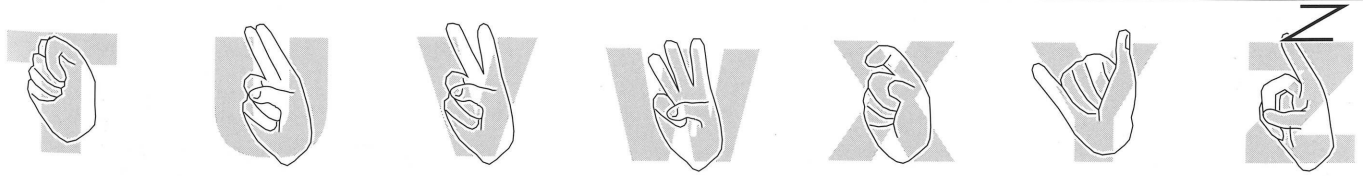


STO

With AIDS around, gonorrhea, syphilis & herpes are fair warning.

Anybody who's ever had a sexually transmitted disease has asked, "Why me?"

It doesn't seem fair. That's the part no one seems to understand. A sexually transmitted disease isn't fair. It has nothing to do with how much makeup someone wears or what kind of language they use. It has to do with the things they do.

Anyone who engages in risky sexual behavior can get a sexually transmitted disease. And anyone can get the AIDS virus the same way.

People who've had gonorrhea, herpes, or syphilis got a warning. Let's hope they paid attention.

If you would like more information on the relationship between AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, call the National AIDS hotline. 1-800-342-AIDS. The hotline for the hearing impaired is 1-800-AIDS-TTY.

AMERICA RESPONDS TO AIDS

This is a message from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

This space donated as a public service by DEAF LIFE

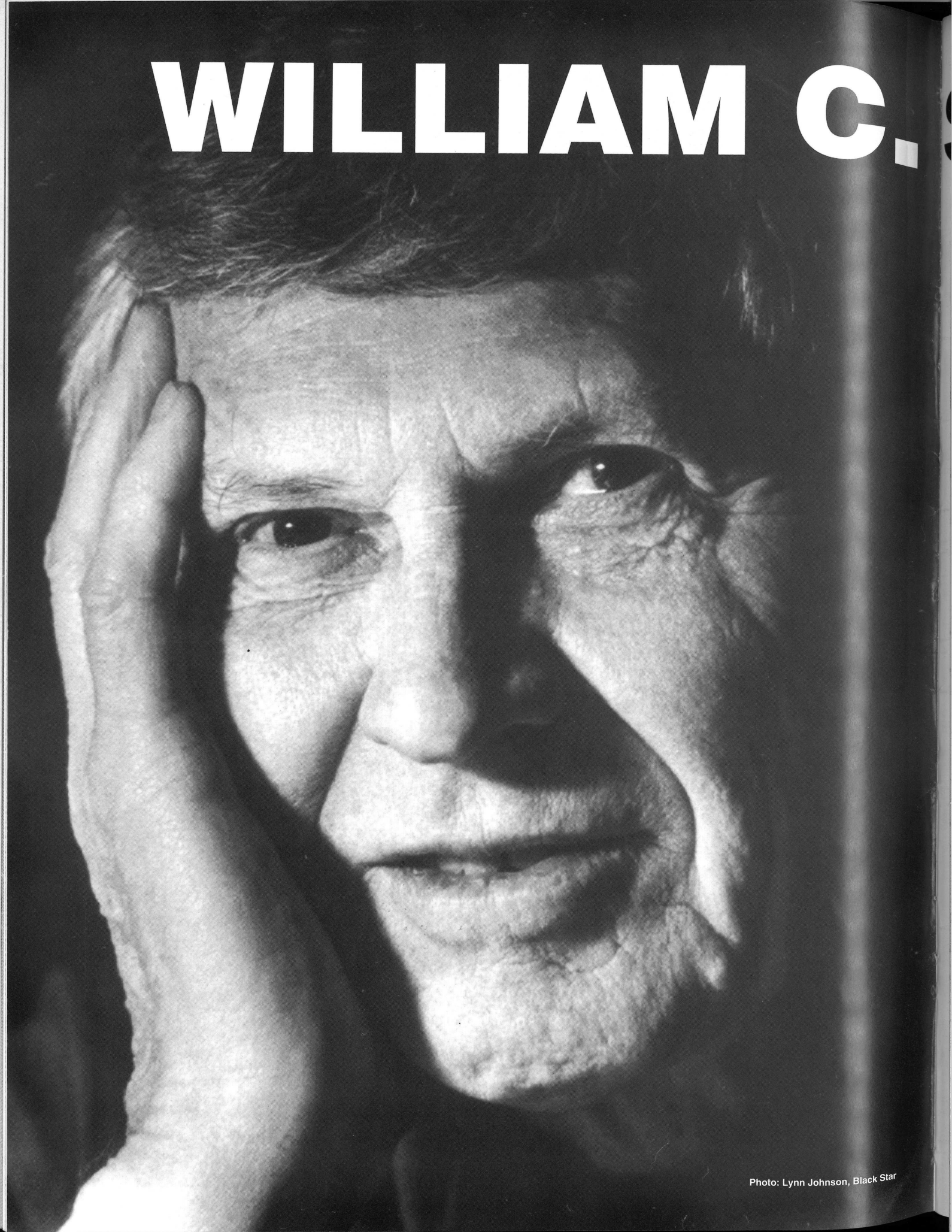


Photo: Lynn Johnson, Black Star

.STOKOE, Jr.

Part 3:

A landmark ASL dictionary, a pioneering scholarly journal and research lab, the inevitable backlash, and (finally) honors: the revolution continues

hen Bill Stokoe decided to compile the first dictionary of American Sign Language, he knew that he would need help from experts in American Sign Language, and what better place to find them than right there at Gallaudet? Bill had already become friends with Carl Croneberg, a deaf professor in the English Department. Bill remembers that Carl was one of the most brilliant people he had met at Gallaudet; he had come to the United States from Sweden to study at Gallaudet; he knew Swedish, English, and American Sign Language, and the results of the research he was conducting among different deaf communities in the United States would eventually be published as part of the dictionary.

Bill's other collaborator on the dictionary was a young student named Dorothy Casterline who had arrived at Gallaudet in 1955, the same year as Bill. She had been a student in one of Bill's Chaucer classes, so they had already developed an admiration for each other. Dorothy Casterline had learned sign language *outside* the classroom when she was a student at the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind, since sign was not permitted in her classes. Together, Croneberg and Casterline could provide access to those signers of different ages and backgrounds so crucial[1] to a valid study of any language.

Although Bill received a grant of $22,000 from the National Science Foundation (thanks to George Detmold's support of the project), it took over four years to complete the dictionary since Bill, Carl, and Dorothy had to find time to do research on it while still doing their regular work in college. It was an extraordinary undertaking involving the filming of signers, the recording of signs, the transcription and organization of those signs into linguistic notations. But it was all worth it. In the end, Bill was convinced that he had produced the first written record of American Sign Language based on linguistic principles, one that "described the language used by members of Deaf culture, its signs, the way those signs are used in combination, the meanings they express, and the universe of knowledge it represents."

But as usual, Bill's work was misunderstood. Although George Detmold recognized it as "a work of genius" when it was published in 1965, and although Ursula Bellugi described it as "a landmark in the analysis of the special linguistic properties of signed languages," most members of the Gallaudet community either ignored it or ridi-

Bill Stokoe speaking at Gallaudet's international DEAF WAY Conference in 1989. He remembers how thrilled he was when people recognized him and thanked him for his work on ASL.
(Photo courtesy of Gallaudet Publications)

culed it. Bill remembers that he had enough funding to have 5,000 copies of the dictionary printed, and he suggested to the manager of the Gallaudet bookstore that a space be set aside for the sale of the book. "But nothing came of that," says Bill. "The dictionaries were packed away in cartons in a place where the leakage from an antique indoor swimming pool soaked a great many, ruining them." (This is so ironic; copies of the original dictionary have since become collector's items.)

Throughout the time that Bill was working on the dictionary, he continued to try to make conditions better for the deaf students at Gallaudet. He hired deaf instructors whenever he could; he tried to revise the curriculum to make it more relevant to students; he wrote books and composed exercises for his deaf students to learn English.

But Bill's actions were not always considered as correct or helpful in the English Department. There were misunderstandings and arguments, and many of the faculty members thought that it was time for a change in the chairmanship. As a result, it was decided that Bill would continue to teach one course in the English Department but that he would spend his other time continuing his pioneering research of American Sign Language. In effect, you could say that Bill Stokoe was being kicked upstairs.

It was a kick that was felt around the world, at least the world of sign-language research. It was arguably one of the best things that ever happened to Bill (although it hurt him very much at the time), to American Sign Language, to those young linguists and researchers who were becoming interested in sign language, and, most important, to those deaf people whose language had never received the recognition or dignity it deserved. As a result of Bill's leaving the English Department, the Linguistics Research Laboratory (LRL) at Gallaudet University was founded. Bill was now free to dedicate his time and energy to a field of research he had begun, one which was beginning to grow rapidly as other linguists and researchers around the country and around the world began to use his seminal[2] ideas and findings as the basis of their own research. Out of the classroom, Bill would have a far greater impact on deaf education than when he was in it.

It was a very exciting time. Everyone who cared about American Sign Language either worked in the lab or visited it to be informed and inspired. The visitors and researchers in the lab reads like a "Who's Who"[3] in the world of sign-language linguistics: Harlan Lane visited whenever he was in Washington; Carol

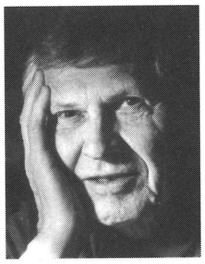
Padden, MJ Bienvenu, Betty Colonomos, and Judy Williams were just four of the many brilliant deaf researchers and students who worked and participated in research there; Charlotte Baker-Shenk, Dennis Cokely, James Woodward, and Robin Battison did some of the most important research in ASL sociolinguistics there; Inger Ahlgren visited from Sweden, Britta Hansen from Denmark, George Montgomery from Scotland, Bernard Mottez from France, Virginia Volterra from Italy; it was Bill who first inspired Laura Pettito and Carol Erting, two of today's most prominent[4] researchers. The list goes on and on. Carol Padden remembers what an exciting time it was:

> In Bill's lab, we talked about self-determination, language, culture, identity, and throwing off the oppressive tradition of deaf education when people couldn't bring themselves to even use the term "ASL." Bill created the possibility of liberation from old dogmas, and in his constant fighting with the administration, made clear the self-interest of the powers-that-be.

Charlotte Baker-Shenk remembers how empowering it was to work not *for* Bill but *with* him.

> Bill simply did not need control to be a leader. His philosophy was simple: I bring you in; I trust you; you are bright, creative, and self-initiating. He was there with his library, with his research, with his readiness to talk about any question. In terms of somebody who is truly intellectually curious, Bill is the epitome of that. As long as you showed an openness, a curiosity to learn, Bill shared everything.

During the time that Bill directed the lab, he also began to edit and publish a quarterly which would eventually become known as **Sign Language Studies**. It was, and still is, the only scholarly research journal devoted exclusively to sign-language research and to issues concerning deaf people. It is read by, and its contributors include, the most knowledgeable and active advocates for Deaf language and culture in the world.



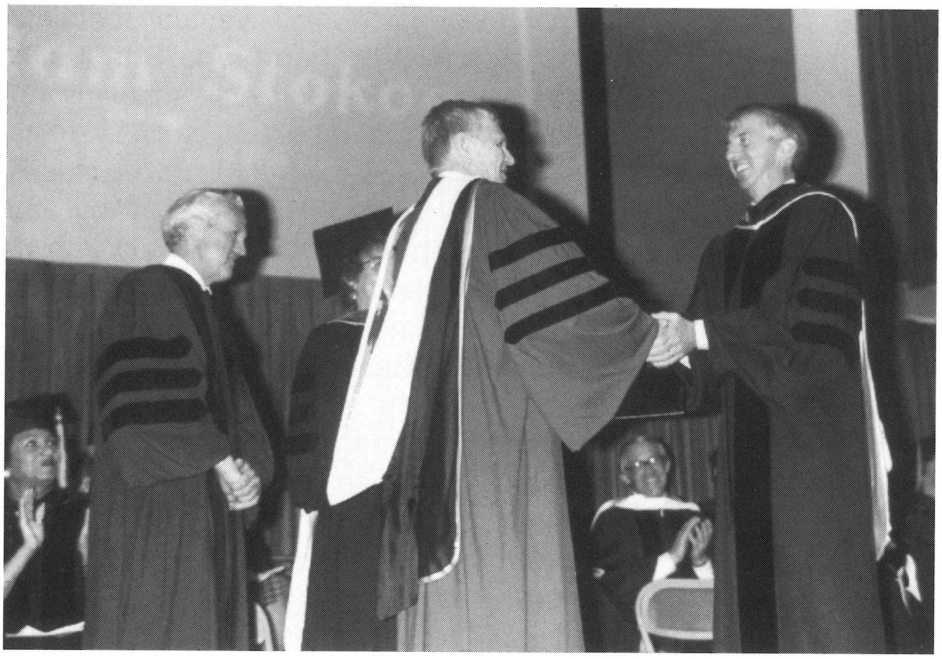
In 1988, Stokoe received an honorary doctorate degree from Gallaudet University. Dr. I. King Jordan calls it "a fitting way to repay Bill for a lifetime of work. I wanted Bill to know how Gallaudet, not just me, but Gallaudet, felt about him. The response to that degree has been nothing but positive."

■

But the Gallaudet administration did not share the enthusiasm for the work being done in the lab that these brilliant researchers and scholars, both deaf and hearing, felt. Nothing much had changed from the days when people ridiculed Bill's belief that his deaf students were using a language, or from the days when he was convinced that his dictionary could be used to further the recognition and appreciation of American Sign Language.

Day after day, Bill resisted the administration's attempts to undermine his work in the lab. Bill remembers that every time he sat down with one of the vice-presidents of the college, "he would ask me when I was going to retire." By this time, the mid-1970s, George Detmold had retired and moved to Florida, but he remained in constant contact with his best friend, and he recalls what Bill was enduring. "The administration really started sticking it to Bill. Anyone else but Bill wouldn't have been able to stand it as long as he did." And Carol Padden remembers with admiration Bill's stubbornness in the face of constant resistance to the work being done in the lab: "How Bill managed to sustain the lab for as long as he did . . . is testimony to his tenacity and craftiness."[5]

On one occasion, the administration refused to grant Bill travel money to attend an international conference in Germany, although he had been invited to deliver the keynote address, an invitation which would bring honor and recognition to Gallaudet. On another occasion, Bill was informed that his pay scale was being changed. There were times when



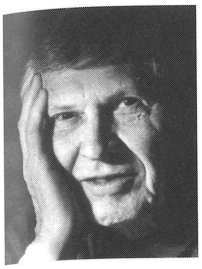
Bill Stokoe is congratulated by Dr. I. King Jordan upon receiving an honorary doctorate degree from Gallaudet in 1988.
(Photo courtesy of Gallaudet Publications)

he was accused of not doing "pure" research in his lab, but rather doing "advocacy" for the deaf. Charlotte Baker-Shenk remembers that time:

> We in the lab were beginning to chip away at the power [the deaf-educational establishment], so it was a wise decision on their part to get rid of us. It was politically and strategically a necessary thing to do, if you want to maintain things the way they have been. We [in the lab] were becoming more powerful. The ASL movement was beginning to really take hold. Even though not a lot of change was taking place at Gallaudet, a lot was beginning to happen in other places. Our ability to articulate the implications[6] of our research was increasing and improving, and that's when it got really scary for them. We started spending a lot of time doing that. That's when we began to be labeled as biased, as going beyond the appropriate behavior for researchers.

Bill was doing in the lab exactly what he had always done: he was simply acting as his intelligence and conscience dictated. He had known almost from the first moment that he met his deaf students that they were highly qualified individuals who possessed their own culture and language, but this was a very frightening idea for those hearing people who were earning their livings and spending their professional lives treating the deaf as inferior members of society. Almost 20 years after the publication of **Sign Language Structure**, Bill's first publication recognizing American Sign Language as a language, most of the administration at Gallaudet still hadn't figured out why they, the majority, should try to learn the language of their students, much less accord its users respect and autonomy.[7]

As long as Bill was directing the lab, he was able to keep it functioning because of his reputation, his tenured position, and his ability to attract funding. But when Bill announced that he would retire in August of 1984, after 39 years at Gallaudet, the administration wasted no time in announcing its decision to close the Linguistics Research Lab. When Bill realized what they were doing, he and two of his colleagues in the lab quickly notified linguists and researchers around the world and asked for their help. Within weeks, over 50 letters flooded President Johns's office from 35 states and from many countries.[8] The letters, from some of the most well-known researchers, writers, and educators in the field, expressed shock over the possibility of closing the pre-eminent[9] lab for sign-language research. Jerome Schein, Ursula Bellugi, François Grosjean, Gordon Hewes, and scores of others, including former Gallaudet students who had begun their careers as linguists in the lab, wrote to the president imploring him to reconsider his decision.



When he retired, he had hoped to be able to return to some of his hobbies: writing poetry, gardening, reading, building and carpentry, spending more time with his grandchildren, canoeing, traveling. But he never seems to have the time. He is even more involved in sign-language projects.

■

> In the unanimous view of scholars of language in general and of sign language in particular who are familiar with the work of your Linguistics Research Laboratory over the past two decades, it has made an extremely valuable contribution to our understanding of the nature of language and its biological basis, to a description of American and other sign languages, and to progress in teaching and translating American Sign Language. It is not an exaggeration to say that the nationwide scholarly and lay interest in sign occurred because of the foundations laid by William Stokoe and collaborators such as Charlotte Baker-Shenk and Dennis Cokely.

Other letters were equally supportive of and complimentary towards the work being conducted in the lab, but the administration refused to reconsider. They insisted in an article which appeared in the college newspaper, **On the Green**, that "the closing of the lab does not reflect a change in the college's commitment to study language," that the work of the lab would be continued by other departments in the college. But the student newspaper, **The Buff and Blue**, did not believe the administration's claims. The student editors ran a long article on December 7, 1984, which was critical of the college's decision, claiming that "there is no evidence that the other departments mentioned are in fact doing ASL linguistics research. . . . Additionally, the two world-renowned ASL linguists now working full-time for the LRL, Dennis Cokely and Charlotte Baker-Shenk, co-authors of the widely used series of texts titled **American Sign Language**, will no longer be employed by this college in any capacity after December 31, 1984."

Despite Bill's valiant[10] fight, soon after he retired, the lab was closed forever, and his two brilliant colleagues, Baker-Shenk and Cokely, were not permitted to remain and continue their research. It was a terrible time for Bill, and for American Sign Language. Carol Padden remembers what a loss it was for the Deaf community, and for Gallaudet University: "Gallaudet, sad to say, has lost many opportunities to bring prestige to itself, including nurturing Bill and using his work and his leadership for Gallaudet's advantage."

Virginia Covington, a professor in the English Department, remembers that a month or two after the closing of the lab, she went over to the new Department of Linguistics to locate something that had been in Bill's library in the lab, a collection which Bill organized and labeled himself, and which Charlotte Baker-Shenk had described as "one of the most complete collections of sign-language linguistics material in the world." As Covington recalls:

> I went over there . . . and introduced myself and said that I was wondering what happened to Bill's material. They just looked at me blankly, then pointed to a corner and said, "That must be what those boxes are." They had just thrown this tremendous linguistic library, articles, beautifully organized and filed, anything you wanted, into boxes and stacked them in a corner. They didn't seem to care. To them it was junk and they didn't know what to do with it.

Of course, Bill Stokoe was terribly saddened over the fate of his lab, and the fate of his two colleagues and friends. But retirement brought with it a new chapter in his work on American Sign Language. He had even more time to devote to his research, the publication of **Sign Language Studies**, and to his family. Soon after his retirement, his wife, Ruth,

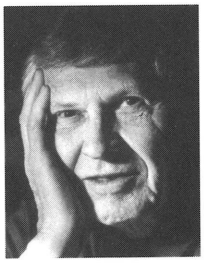
began to help him with the publishing and mailing of the journal, and their relationship began to grow even deeper and closer as they spent hours together working on Bill's journal, then sharing the household chores. Bill was more revered[11] than ever for his work, and he continued to be asked to review books and articles, travel to conferences, deliver addresses, and contribute to journals.

Within four years of his retirement, however, in 1987, Ruth began to show signs of Alzheimer's Disease. Bill was devastated at first. He channeled all his intellectual and emotional energy into learning about the disease so that he could do what was best for her. Today, six years later, Bill still takes care of his wife, visiting her every day in the nursing home near his own house, taking her for walks, reading to her. In fact, on November 11, 1992, Bill had dozens of roses sent to Ruth at the home in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

As for Bill's relationship with Gallaudet, Bill remembers the week of the Deaf President Now Revolution in 1988 with great joy and satisfaction, for he realized that the students who were protesting that their language and culture be recognized were, in many ways, arguing for the same thing he had been advocating for 40 years. In 1989, Bill was invited to address The Deaf Way Conference, and he jokes that he's been "rehabilitated, like they used to do in Russia when old guys like Khrushchev re-emerged."[12]

There was one event, however, which Bill remembers with particular pride and pleasure: the day he received an honorary degree from I. King Jordan, the first deaf president of Gallaudet University. In May of 1988, when the day came for Bill to be awarded the degree, he decided to bring Ruth with him. "Even if she couldn't know what was happening, she belonged there with me."

I. King Jordan remembers the occasion well, describing it as "a fitting way to repay Bill for a lifetime of work. I wanted Bill to know how Gallaudet, not just me, but Gallaudet, felt about him. The response to that degree has been nothing but positive. Everywhere I go, people still talk about the honorary degree and are delighted it was given. People recognize the appropriateness of it." David Armstrong, one of Bill's best friends, remembers the day well. "Bill was genuinely pleased and gratified. I think the wound was at least partially healed."

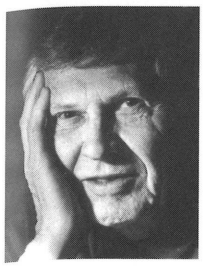


As usual, Bill's work was misunderstood. Although Stokoe's supporters recognized his dictionary as "a work of genius" and a linguistic landmark, the Gallaudet community largely ignored or ridiculed it.

■

Although Bill Stokoe will be 74 next July, he is as busy, active, concerned, and brilliant as ever. When he retired, he had hoped to be able to return to some of those hobbies he had always loved: writing poetry, gardening, reading, building and carpentry, spending much more time with his three "very beautiful and intelligent" grandchildren, canoeing, traveling. But he never seems to have the time. Rather than slow down after retirement, he is even more involved in sign-language projects. Last November, he was awarded another honorary doctorate degree, this one from Copenhagen University on its 455th anniversary; he is working with his old friend Dennis Cokely on publishing works of special significance to the field of ASL; he continues to edit articles for **Sign Language Studies**; he is participating on an ASL/Deaf Studies task force at Gallaudet; he is working with other scholars and linguists on a movie-storing dictionary of ASL.

In effect, nothing has changed. The young, brilliant scholar who arrived at Gallaudet in 1955 is still learning, still caring, still making discoveries about a language that has always fascinated him, not simply for its linguistic properties, but because of his devotion to the people whose language it is. Nowhere is the respect and awe which Bill Stokoe feels for American Sign Language and the people who use it more evident than in the description he wrote in 1986:



Despite the hostility of the administration, Bill kept the Linguistics Research Lab open. But when he announced that he would retire in August of 1984, after 39 years at Gallaudet, the administration wasted no time in announcing its decision to close the lab.

■

If ever there were a place where unconscious signifying and communicating comes together with the conscious use of language, it is in the realm of signs made with human bodies and read with human vision.

Deaf Life

About the author:
Jane Maher teaches writing at Nassau Community College in Garden City, New York. She recently earned her Ph.D. from New York University. Her dissertation topic was entitled *Seeing a Language in Signs: William C. Stokoe's Contributions to American Sign Language and to the People Who Use It.*

NOTES

[1] **crucial**: vitally important; indispensable.

[2] **seminal**: containing the seeds of later development; influential and original.

[3] **Who's Who**: a well-known reference work containing brief biographies of contemporary (living) famous and notable people. In other words, virtually *all* the best-known and most distinguished people in the field visited Stokoe's lab.

[4] **prominent**: widely known; famous.

[5] **tenacity** and **craftiness**: holding firm, refusing to yield; and cleverness in outwitting the opposition and surviving.

[6] **articulate** the **implications**: express or spell out clearly what is suggested (by this research); in other words, foreseeing political and social changes in the Deaf community as a result of the ASL research at the LRL.

[7] **autonomy**: self-government.

[8] W. Lloyd Johns was 5th president of Gallaudet College (1983-1984). He was succeeded by Jerry Lee (1984-88).

[9] **pre-eminent**: outstanding, superior, most notable.

[10] **valiant**: brave; courageous.

[11] **revered**: greatly respected and admired.

[12] Nikita Khrushchev (1894-1971, pronounced *kroosh-choff*) was premier of the Soviet Union from 1958 to 1964, when he was removed from office, announcing his "retirement" due to "advanced age and poor health." In reality, he was forced out of power by a coalition of other politicians. After his political downfall, he retired to his *dacha* (summerhouse), and was, for all purposes, a "nonperson"—rarely mentioned in the press, appearing in public only to vote in Soviet elections. His memoirs, published in 1970, created a stir in the West. But his death wasn't even announced to the Soviet public for 2 days, nor was he given a state funeral. Since his death, Khrushchev, as a national figure, has become "rehabilitated"—that is, public (and official) opinion about him has grown more favorable, and he is given credit for initiating political, economic, and social reforms—including some drastic changes from former Communist policy—and better relations with capitalist countries.

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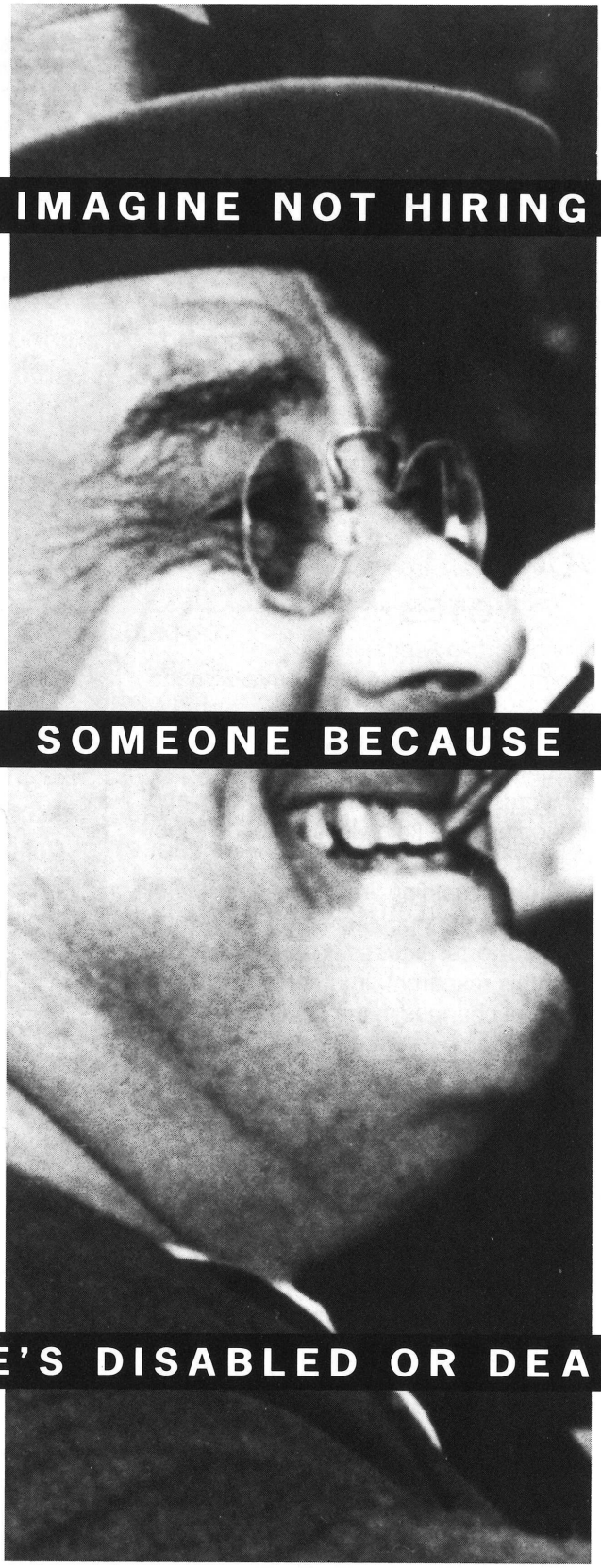

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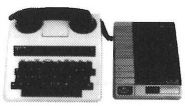
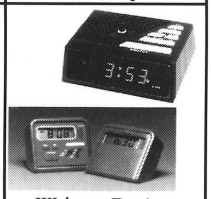
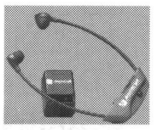
TV Decoder	 TDD & Voice Answering Machine	Pocket Amplifier
Knock Alert	Handset Amplifier	 Wakeup Devices
Microloop Amplifier	 Assistive Listening	Visual Smoke Alarm
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Were you born deaf?

No, I started going deaf when I was about 12 years old and by the time I was 17 my hearing was totally gone.

Are there any other deaf people in your family?

Yes, my mother and father were both deaf. My father Joseph went to the Illinois School for the Deaf at Jacksonville. My mother Annie went to the Bell School for the Deaf in Chicago.

How about your children?

My daughter Lynda is deaf.

So the deafness in your family is hereditary?

Yes, I'm sure it is.

What schools did you attend?

I went to Roosevelt University in Chicago and got a degree in Accounting. Then I went to the University of Chicago and got a Master's in Business Administration. I became a Certified Public Accountant. I then got a job with the Illinois Department of Revenue as an auditor and investigator.

Why did you pick accounting?

Well, I thought it would be a good field for a deaf person.

Did you like being a State investigator?

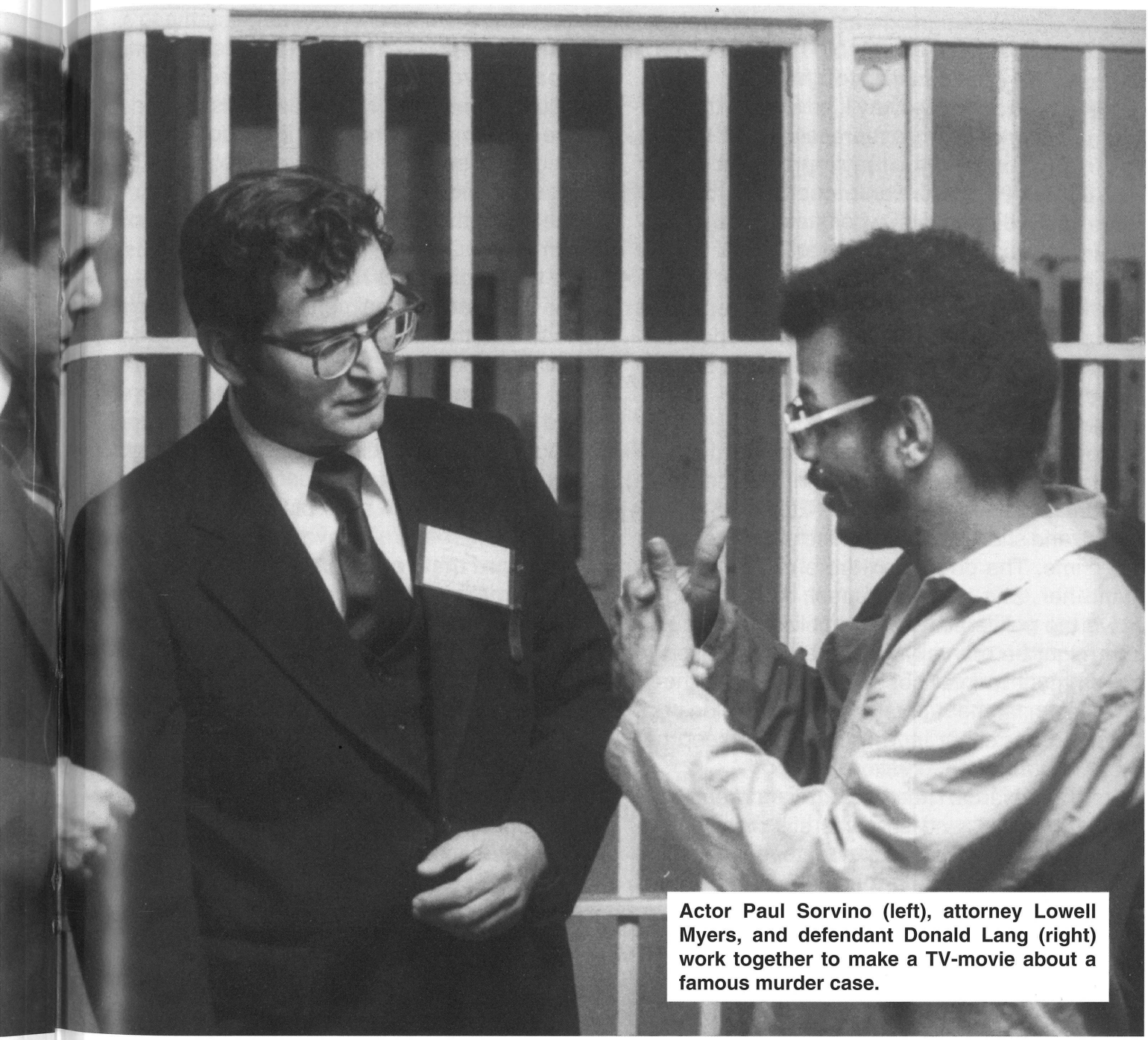
It was interesting work. I might spend a week working on nightclubs, and the next week I might be investigating a railroad, and after that it might be a steel-mill—one type of business after another. It was a good way to get a background in the business world.

How did you get into law?

The work I was doing as a State investigator had a lot of legal matters connected with it and I was working with lawyers all the time. I got interested in law and applied for admission in the night school at the John Marshall Law School, in Chicago.

Did you have any trouble getting into law school?

I had a lot of trouble. The dean of the school told me that no deaf person had been admitted to any law school in the United States for over 50 years. He said that it was a very tough program and that sometimes



Actor Paul Sorvino (left), attorney Lowell Myers, and defendant Donald Lang (right) work together to make a TV-movie about a famous murder case.

80% of the class would fail. He said, "A deaf person couldn't possibly do it. I think you would be wasting your time." I said, "I've got the time. Let's try it out."

What happened?

They admitted me to the school. The starting class had 80 people in it, and at the end of the first semester I was second in the class.

Did you have an interpreter?

At that time they didn't have free interpreters, and I couldn't afford to hire one, so I had no interpreter.

How long did it take you to get a law degree?

At night school it took 4 years. I was a State investigator in the daytime, and I went to law school at night. When I graduated 4 years later, there were only 20 people left in the class. Out of the 80 people who had started, 60 of them were gone. I graduated second in the class, out of 20.

What did you do then?

I quit the job with the State and took a position as attorney for Sears, Roebuck and Co. At that time, I was the only lawyer in the state of Illinois who knew the Deaf sign-language, so a lot of the

judges started assigning cases to me involving deaf people.

What kind of cases did you handle?

I handled practically every kind of case there is. In one case a lawyer may represent a child 9 years old. In the next case you may represent a person who is over 90 years old. In one case you may represent a deaf person who is a college graduate. In the next case you represent a deaf person who cannot read or write. You represent people who have multiple handicaps. You may represent deaf people from Pakistan who don't know English. There are all kinds of people. You see the entire range of humanity.

Were the cases interesting?

A lot of them were very interesting. I had a case where a deaf woman from Germany came to this country, and she couldn't speak English. She was raped, and she went to the police station to report the crime. The policeman there couldn't understand her. She was very upset, and refused to leave the police station. The policeman thought she might be mentally ill, so he took her to the government mental hospital and left her there. The doctor at the mental institution couldn't understand her either, so he decided to keep her there for further observation.

Long afterwards, I heard about it and went to the mental hospital, and she was still there, handcuffed to a bed. I went to the doctor and told him, "That lady is deaf. She's from Germany; she can't speak English. There is nothing wrong with her, except that she was raped!" The doctor said, "I didn't know that. She should have told me that."

How could she tell the doctor that if she couldn't speak English?

Well, when you practice law, you find out that there are a lot of careless people around, who make all kinds of mistakes.

Do hearing people try to take advantage of the deaf?

They certainly do. I had a case where a deaf man, 60 years old, had a grown-up son who was about 40. One day the son gave his father a paper to sign. The father asked, "What's it for?" The son said, "It's for your income tax." So the father signed the paper. Later on, the father discovered that he didn't own his home anymore. The paper had been a deed to the father's home, and home now belonged to the son. The father came to see me; he wanted to get back the title to his home.

What did you do?

I told the son, "I will give you 24 hours to deed the home back to your father, and if you don't do it you are going to be in very serious trouble."

What happened?

The son immediately gave the home back to his father.

Do things like that happen frequently?

They happen all the time. I had a case where a man was both blind and deaf. Another man was stealing money from the blind-deaf man all the time. This man thought that the blind-deaf man could never be a witness against him in court, because of the handicap. But we got special interpreters, and the blind-deaf man did very well in court. We got back most of the money, but not all of it.

I've heard that you're an expert on the Bible.

I am an expert on the part of the Bible that's called the "Old Testament." I have a whole library of books on that subject.

How did you come to be interested in that?

It was not because of religion. It was because the book gives such a fascinating viewpoint into human nature, and into the fundamental problems that people have. You see the same problems repeated over an over again, generation after generation.

For example...?

The Book of Genesis (the first book of the Bible) says that Cain murdered his brother Abel, purely out of jealousy. We have lots of murder cases today that are caused by jealousy! You see almost the same things appear and then reappear in the next generation. Cain is still around. He has changed his name, and he uses a gun now instead of a rock, but he is still very much with us. Jealousy can be a terrible thing.

So your hobby of studying the Old Testament helps you in your legal work?

I use it all the time. I had a case where a deaf woman was selling things from door-to-door, in a large public building. There was a sign in the building saying "There are vicious dogs on the 4th floor. Stay away from the 4th floor." The woman did not see the sign and she got off on the 4th floor, and the police dog there attacked her and injured

her very badly. I saw the dog later and took pictures of it, and I am telling you, that dog was enormous!

We sued the company that operated the building. Their insurance company was Lloyds of London, which is a big company, undoubtedly the most famous insurance company in the world. Lloyds hired one of the largest law firms in the city to fight the case. The law firm argued that the woman was not supposed to be on the 4th floor, that she was a trespasser there, and that Lloyd's didn't have her pay her anything because she was a trespasser.

In court, I said: "No, that's wrong. The law of Illinois is that if the company knew the dog was vicious, then they have to pay for the injuries, even if the lady was a trespasser." I won the case in the trial court, but Lloyds of London took an appeal to the higher court—the Illinois Appellate Court.

In the high court I told the judges: "The law in Illinois today is in favor of this woman. Not only that, but this has been the law in Illinois ever since the state began, which is 150 years ago. In addition, I want to tell you that the state of Illinois took that law directly from the Bible. That rule of law appears in the Old Testament, as part of what is called 'the law of Moses.' That particular rule of law has been in force for over 3,000 years."[1]

The chief judge said, "That is an amazing case. I would never have dreamed that I would be called upon to review the law of Moses in the Bible."

Who won the case?

I won the case in the high court. The judges were not going to change a rule of law that has existed for 3,000 years.

You've used the Bible in other cases?

I use it all the time. I used it a couple of years ago in the Scott Nelsson murder case. The judges and the juries have a lot of respect for the Bible. They pay attention.

Didn't you sue the Chicago Police Department at one time?

The dean of the law school told me, "A deaf person couldn't possibly do it. I think you would be wasting your time." I said, "I've got the time. Let's try it out." I was admitted, and by the end of the first semester I was second in the class.

Yes, I did. At one time Chicago policemen might go up to a deaf man and ask questions. If the deaf man didn't answer, the policemen might get angry and start beating him, just because he didn't answer. I represented a group of about 200 deaf people in Chicago and we sued the entire police department.

What happened?

The police department admitted that there was a serious problem. We wrote a 4-page set of instructions for the police, to tell them how to handle deaf suspects or witnesses, and every policeman in the city was given a copy of it.

This instruction booklet was copied by a lot of other police departments in other cities, and they used it too.

Did it do any good?

It did some good for a while, but where people are involved, nothing lasts forever. People come and go. After a number of years you often find that you are back where you started from, and somebody has to do it all over again.

You also wrote the first law for court interpreters for the deaf?

Yes, that's right. It was always the law in every state that a deaf person was entitled to a free interpreter in a criminal case. But it used to be the law in almost every state that the court would not provide a free interpreter for a private case in a civil court, like a divorce case. There was a legal theory that you could not use public money for a private matter.

Did you agree with that?

No, I believed that the law could provide a free interpreter in a civil case, provided that the law was written properly. So I wrote a proposed law that way I thought it should be done, and I had it passed by the Illinois legislature. I got about 130 members of the House of Representatives to co-sponsor the bill. That was more co-sponsors than any other bill had for many years. The law was passed and the Governor signed it.

But then we ran into trouble. The lawyers for the county claimed that the law was unconstitutional, and that it couldn't be used. I took the case to the Illinois Supreme Court and won the case there. The Supreme Court held that the law was valid.

Then I wrote letters to all of the State Associations of the Deaf in the United States, and told them exactly what to do to get the same law passed in their states. Today, most states have this law, copied from the Illinois law.

Has this helped?

It has helped enormously. It was one of the best things that ever happened. Getting free interpreters gave deaf people a much better chance of getting justice in the court system.

You've written several books. What are they?

One was called **The Law and the Deaf** (1964). It was published by the federal government and they sent it to most of the judges throughout the nation. I wrote another book for deaf children, and it was used in the state schools for the deaf. I think I sold about 10,000 copies. I also wrote a book about police brutality. It covered the Illinois law and the federal law. Most of the judges in Illinois got copies of it.

Police brutality is still very much in the news today.

There is a terrible problem. Brutal and sadistic people are attracted to police work like flies are attracted to honey. Brutal people will do almost anything to get employed as a policeman. Sometimes a man will apply to 40 or 50 different police departments until he is finally accepted somewhere. Then he uses the badge and uniform as the perfect cover-up for his brutal activities. Some police departments are simply loaded with brutal people of that kind. They cover-up for each other. It's a very serious thing.

Did the book help?

Yes, it helped. Hundreds of different law firms got the book and started accepting police-brutality cases. Many of them had never taken that kind of case before. The book showed them how to handle that kind of case successfully.

The Book of Genesis says that Cain murdered his brother Abel, purely out of jealousy. We have lots of murder cases today that are caused by jealousy! Cain is still around. He has changed his name, and he uses a gun now instead of a rock, but he is still very much with us.

Is it true that you're a millionaire?

Yes, that's true.

How did you accomplish that?

Actually, I never paid much attention to money. If a case was interesting I would take it, regardless of payment. But I started winning some big cases, and some of them were cases that other lawyers had turned down as being impossible to win.

For example...?

I had a case where a businessman received a tax bill. This was a new tax just passed by the State. I happened to know the man because his daughter was deaf. He asked me if I thought the tax was legal. One of the largest law firms in the United States had already looked into this matter and had come to the conclusion that the tax was valid and that everybody would have to pay.

I studied the matter myself and decided that the tax was illegal. I filed a class suit in court to have the tax declared void. The case went to the Illinois Supreme Court and I won the case there on behalf of all the taxpayers.

Then there was a question about exactly what my fee should be for winning the tax case. The question concerning the amount of my legal fee went to the Illinois Supreme Court as a separate case.

When the case was argued before the Supreme Court, I read to the judges from the Bible, where it says: "The laborer is worthy of his reward."[2]

What did the Supreme Court decide?

They decided that my fee would be $90,000. Together with the interest, it was over $100,000.

That's for one case?

Yes. But it was a case that a lot of people said was impossible to win.

Were there any other cases like that?

There were quite a few. I remember a case where a man came to me and said that 21 years ago a woman had told him orally that if he lived with her until she died, then she would make her will in his favor, and he would get her entire estate. So he lived with her and took care of her. She had recently died, and then he found she had not made the will in his favor as she'd promised.

This man had already gone to four different lawyers, and they all told him the same thing. The woman's contract was an oral contract. There was nothing in writing. In Illinois, the time limit of filing a lawsuit based upon the breach of an oral contract is 5 years. The woman had made her oral promise 21 years ago. So the lawyers told him that it was too late to sue. After 21 years, nothing could be done.

Did you agree with that?

No I didn't. I told the man that the other lawyers were wrong. I told him that he had a good case and that the passing of 21 years didn't make any difference. I took the case and wrote an article on the legal question. The article was published, and the people holding the estate immediately settled the case for a very large sum of money.

How did the man feel about that?

He was extremely happy. I started to get a reputation for winning cases that other lawyers thought were impossible to win. If a lawyer can win the case for them, people don't care if he's deaf, or handicapped, or if he has green hair. So law is a field where ability can pay off.

If you could find an answer to the man's case, why couldn't the other four lawyers find it?

They were looking in the wrong place.

How long did it take you to find an answer to that problem?

About half an hour. I just sat down and did some serious thinking.

Did you have any help?

I had some black coffee. That helped.

After you won the case and got the money, did any of the other lawyers say anything about it?

Well, there's an old joke about that. When somebody comes up with something new and different, you frequently find that everybody else in the field immediately says, "This is totally wrong. It couldn't *possibly* be right."

However, six months later the same people come back and say "We have been thinking about this, and this new idea is true. It's correct. However, it has no importance of any kind. So we might just as well forget about it, because it doesn't mean anything important."

Six months after that, the same people will come back and say, "This idea is really very important. However, we knew about it a long time ago, and in fact—we thought of it first!"

Do people actually act that way?

They certainly do.

Does it bother you when people act like that?

It bothers me a lot. I cry all the way to the bank!

There was a TV-movie made about one of your most famous cases.

Yes, the Donald Lang murder case. He was a deaf man who couldn't communicate at all. He didn't know sign language. Actually, there were two murder cases.[3] Ernest Tidyman wrote a book about them, titled **Dummy**. It was published by Book-of-the-Month Club and some other publishers.[4]

It was a best-seller, wasn't it?

Yes, it sold out completely in all of the different editions. Some colleges were using it as a textbook in sociology classes. It sold out pretty fast.

How did the movie come to be made?

There are people in Hollywood who watch all of the new books as they're published. They read the book and came to see me, and said they'd pay me $20,000 if I'd help them make the movie. I said, "That's fine, but I want you to pay Donald another $20,000." They agreed to that, paid the $40,000, and proceeded to make the movie. LeVar Burton played Donald's part, and Paul Sorvino played mine.

Does it take a lot of courage to be a lawyer?

It depends on what kind of cases you handle. If the lawyer just does patent work or something of that kind, it doesn't require any particular courage. If a lawyer does divorce work, criminal cases, things like that, it can require a *lot* of courage. It's pretty common for people to make threats. Usually, they don't carry them out. Unfortunately, sometimes they do.

Did you ever drop a case because you were

afraid of the person on the other side?

No, I never did. A lawyer spends a lot of time in police stations, jails, hospitals, morgues, mental institutions, and places like that. After a while, you get used to it. I made up my mind a long time ago that I was never going to be scared into anything, or scared out of anything. If people make threats, I just disregard them, and proceed with what has to be done.

Does being a millionaire make any difference in your life?

It doesn't make much difference in my personal life. You can only eat three meals a day. You can only sleep in one bed at a time. So money doesn't make much difference at home.

But money can make a big difference in handling legal cases. If a lawyer doesn't have enough money, that lack of money can prevent him from handling his cases properly. He may not be able to afford hiring investigators, or experts, or court reporters. It limits his freedom of action.

On the other hand, if money is no problem, then the lawyer is free to handle the case the best way. If expenses are involved, he just goes ahead without having to worry about how to pay for them.

Money is important because it gives you time. It gives you courage and independence. It makes you free to do what is right. In that way, it is important.

Could you give an example of that?

I had a case where the lawyer on the other side did some things that I thought were seriously wrong. I thought it was quite shocking. At that time, if you wanted to make a complaint against a lawyer, you had to file the complaint with a committee composed of certain lawyers. It was theoretically under the authority of the Illinois Supreme Court, but actually the proceedings of this committee were mostly secret, so the Supreme Court really didn't know too much about what the committee was doing. So the committee pretty much ran itself.

Being a millionaire doesn't make much difference in my personal life. You can only eat three meals a day. You can only sleep in one bed at a time. But money can make a big difference in handling legal cases. It gives you time. It gives you courage and independence. It makes you free to do what is right. In that way, money is important.

I filed my complaint against the other lawyer with this committee and they held one of their secret hearings on the matter. I thought the procedure they used at the hearing was ridiculous. It was like something out of **Alice in Wonderland**!

What did the committee decide?

They ruled that nothing should be done.

But that wasn't the end of it?

Ordinarily, that would have been the end of it, but I thought it over carefully. It seemed to me that since the committee was legally under the authority of the Illinois Supreme Court, I had a right to ask the Supreme Court to schedule a rehearing—under a Special Commissioner to be selected by the Court itself. In other words, I decided to ask the Supreme Court to use its authority to overrule the committee.

So what did you do?

I made up my legal papers to be filed with the Supreme Court and put some very strong remarks into it. I told the Supreme Court that because of the rule of secrecy, the Court itself didn't know what the committee was doing. I said that the committee hearing was like something out of **Alice in Wonderland**; that it was absurd. I said that if the hearings were open to the public they would probably be considered the funniest show in town. Instead of people paying $20 for a ticket to see a comedy show downtown, they would just go and watch the committee hearings, and everybody would laugh at the ridiculous proceedings. I made some other remarks along that line.

What happened then?

I sent my petition to the Illinois Supreme Court to be filed. When the Supreme Court clerk got the document he read it, then called me. I knew him from previous cases. He said, "Mr. Myers, nobody has ever filed a petition like this before. You have made some very strong statements in your document. I don't know how the judges of the Supreme Court will react to that. You are taking a

risk in filing such a document. You could get into trouble with the court."

I told him, "I know the judges of the Supreme Court and they know me. They know that if I say something, it's the truth. Just file the document with the court and don't worry about me. I can take care of myself."

And then...?

Well, month after month went by and there was no answer from the Supreme Court. Finally, they issued a decision: "The motion of Lowell Myers for a re-hearing before a Special Commissioner—is DENIED."

The end of the matter?

I thought that was the end of it, but a short time later the Illinois Supreme Court issued an announcement. The committee of lawyers was cancelled permanently. There would be no more committee. Instead, every lawyer in the state of Illinois would have to pay a special fee of $25 per year, and that money—over $1,000,000 a year—would be used to set up a new office of investigations. This office was going to have a many full-time investigators and administrators. Lawyers who did bad things were going to be in big trouble. The old system was gone forever.

How did the lawyers in Chicago feel about that?

The honest lawyers loved it. The dishonest lawyers hated it. One lawyer called me up. He was very angry and yelling, "Why did you do that?!" I said to him, "Well, the Bible says, 'Let justice roll down like a mighty river.'[5] I am happy to tell you that the river is moving and your committee just got washed away."

Would you want your children to be lawyers?

My son Benjamin is a lawyer.

What does your daughter Lynda do?

She's a social worker. She works with all kinds of people, including deaf people. She's done a lot of work with drug-addict cases. She won an award for doing that.

Some hearing people look down on the deaf and think badly of them. How can the deaf get a better image in the world?

I think the deaf movie and TV star Marlee Matlin is a good example of what we need. She's an intelligent and aggressive person who went out into the world and was extremely successful. She did not limit herself to the deaf world. She didn't sit at home and complain about things. She went out into the world and did what needed to be done. I have a lot of respect for her. That's the kind of person we need.[6]

Suppose a deaf person comes up to you and says, "I want to be a millionaire!" What advice would you give?

I would tell him or her to forget about money entirely and just aim at getting to the top of the field they're working in. By the time they got to the top of their field, I think they would probably be a millionaire, even without thinking about it.

Ah, but how does someone get to the top of their field?

The Bible says: "Whatever you turn your hand to do, you should do it with all your power and all your might."[7] The Bible is an old book, but that is still pretty good advice!

NOTES

[1] In Torah (Biblical or Mosaic) law, owners who knowingly keep vicious animals are held responsible for injuries inflicted by those animals on neighbors or passersby. For example, Exodus 21:28-36 details restitution to the victims of an ox that is a habitual gorer, and the penalties levied on its owner.

[2] 1 Timothy 5:18.

[3] These cases made legal history. Lang was ultimately acquitted of the first murder charge, but soon after being released, was arrested and charged with another murder. Although Myers gave a brilliant defense at his trial, Lang was found guilty and sentenced to prison.

[4] Tidyman included a brief "Author's Note" in his book explaining *why* he chose this "cruelest, most shocking, and seemingly irresponsible labeling of Donald Lang" as title. Originally published in 1974 by Little, Brown and Company, it was reprinted as a Bantam paperback in 1975. The TV-movie premiered in 1979, and got excellent reviews.

[5] Amos 5:24.

[6] In her TV series, ***Reasonable Doubts***, Matlin plays a D.A.'s assistant—a fantasy with a grain of truth in it. Michael Schwartz, now a Deaf attorney in private practice, was an assistant for Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau for a number of years.

[7] Ecclesiastes 9:10.

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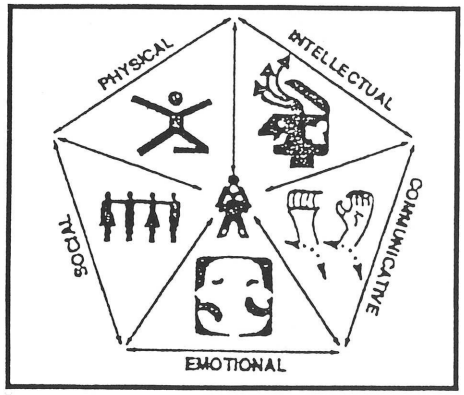

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Dr. Roslyn Rosen, Dean
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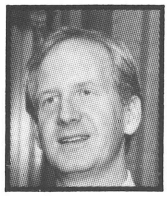

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Deaf Life

READERS' RESPONSES

Do you believe that there has been a lot of unreported sexual abuse of deaf children in residential schools?

80% Yes 15% No 5% Not sure

NO—I don't think so. Deaf children in residential schools are raised to communicate with their sign language fluently. There are a lot of gossips and rumors which spread so quickly in the small deaf world. Any student or faculty can discover this problem one way or another.

YES—I'm an interpreter in the mental-health setting and hear a lot of cases. Everytime someone makes mention (or admits to) their own abuse they tell stories of many other abuses done to others that never come to light.

YES—I was sexually abused in a residential school for deaf children when I was 3 to 5 years old, so I know it can happen. The abuse occurred in the school's infirmary. It is too easy to take advantage of deaf children because of their relative difficulty of communicating facts as well as their conditioned fear of the punitive powers of adults whom the children would have trusted.—By a deaf adult

YES—Deaf children should get awareness and counseling session [so] they can be prepared to know what to do in residential schools. So, they won't be victims of sexual abuse there. I saw a lot of happening. I was so fortunate not to be victim of sexual abuse in my residential school at all.

YES—I strongly believe that there is overwhelming number of unreported sexual abuse of deaf children because some adult thinks that they are unable to communicate to their parents or houseparent on what really had happened to them. I graduated from deaf school myself and had seen and heard about sexual abuse between male adult and boys. I knew of one male friend who had been molested by a hearing houseparent and he felt that it was part of growing-up. Later on, this same friend now realized that it was no game, just abuse. He now have trouble developing sexual relationship because he doesn't understand the meaning of being sexual human being. To prove my belief about overwhelming number of unreported sexual abuse, approx. 20% of all of my deaf friends were sexaually abused at school and home.

NO—I am from the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf in West Trenton, New Jersey. I am proud to say that I was in that residential school for 16 years, and not once did a dorm supervisor, a teacher, or a student ever sexually abuse me. Also, I never heard of it happening to any student during my time there.

YES—Because most deaf children are afraid that if they report sexual abuse to the authorities or superintendent, they will be given a bad grade, punished, kicked out of sports—or out of school. At the Missouri school, they preferred to keep it secret to maintain the reputation of a "good school" with no problems. Since several girls were sexually abused by their well-known coach or Dorm Director (both men), they hoped to get good grades if they kept their mouths shut. There are no support groups to help deaf children be aware of sexual and other kinds of abuse. Also, the school tends to overdose medication given to the kids to lower their "hyperactivity," which is not necessary.

Deaf Life

READERS' VIEWPOINT

FAXVIEW

DEAF LIFE would like to know what you think about major issues affecting the Deaf community. Tear out **or** photocopy this page and fax your response to (716) 328-6720, **or** mail it to us at Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.

Are you happy with the U.S. Postal Service's new "*I Love You*" stamps?

❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not sure

Why?

Comments: _____

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Deadline: May 1, 1993

FAXVIEW

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Please respond promptly so that we can publish the results in the June issue.

The New "ILY"
bypassing the Deaf Community

First, the good news: Last October, the United States Postal Service announced its 1993 stamp program. Two colorful "ILY" (I Love You) postage stamps will be issued this summer in a *se-tenant* format. (*Se-tenant* is French for "joined together"—two different designs with a common theme available as a pair or singly.) One stamp shows a close-up of the "ILY" sign; the other shows a mother making the "ILY" sign to her baby. Each is captioned "I Love You" and "American Sign Language." They will be printed in a sheet format of 20 stamps containing 10 *se-tenant* pairs.

Now, the bad news: The ILY stamps were designed and produced without the knowledge of, or input from, the Deaf community. This is all the more ironic in light of the fact that the National Association of the Deaf had been lobbying for an ILY stamp for at least a decade. Where did the USPS get the idea, if not from Deaf people? Yet no Deaf people were involved in the planning of the stamps.

A couple years ago, the NAD sponsored an ILY stamp-design competition. Four winning designs—by William Williams of Maryland, Ann Silver of Washington, and John Estes III of California—were chosen last July at the NAD Convention in Denver. In our judgment, these professional and colorful designs would have made excellent self-explanatory stamps—no *se-tenant* needed. While attractive and appealing, the *se-tenant* stamps do not explain the origin of the "ILY"—exactly *how* this handsign expresses "love." Silver's and Estes's designs clearly do, and Williams's indicates that the symbol is a "universal sign." The USPS design was developed independently from the NAD competition—and not a word to the Deaf community. It came as a shock to many who had hoped that the USPS would not only give the ILY idea serious consideration, but would go to the people who used the symbol in their everyday lives and could best communicate what it meant, and that it might actually feature the work of a Deaf artist.

The four winning stamp designs from NAD's competition. Left to right: William Williams, Ann Silver (two), and John Estes III.
(Courtesy of Ken Rothschild)

NAD's **I Love You** Postage Stamp Committee issued a brief press release which mentioned "the USPS's profound apologies in their communication breakdown with the NAD. Production schedules, technical constraints, contractual obligations, and [other] mitigating factors were in place for the USPS's **I Love You** stamps for some time and therefore cannot incorporate any one of our 4 designs."

Getting an idea for a postage stamp is easy. Seeing that idea become a postage stamp is a difficult, complex, lengthy process. We were left with some unanswered questions: *how* could the USPS have produced an ILY stamp without input from the Deaf Community? And why didn't it occur to them to ask a Deaf artist to do it? And all this while the NAD was conducting a letter-writing campaign and a stamp competition!?!

Kenneth J. Rothschild, Chair of NAD's **I Love You** Postage Stamp Committee, has some answers, and provides a behind-the-scenes glimpse at the complexities of the workings of the USPS:

Allow me to point out that the United States Postal Service gets thousands of requests for stamp subjects on an annual basis. I can safely say that they get over

”Stamp:

10,000 letters and the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC)—composed of different non-USPS people—has the tough task of selecting about 15 different subjects to plan on a stamp program three or four years hence. Not only the subject ideas are to be considered, but they also have to meet criteria for the stamp-selection process. And the toughest thing is that the CSAC will NOT accept any design ideas to review, but only go by the subject matter first.

After my stint as the Chair of the Thomas H. Gallaudet Stamp Project in 1983, I got [negative] feedback from some Deaf people who were "not pleased" with the Gallaudet stamp because Gallaudet himself was a hearing person. People encouraged me to aim for a Laurent Clerc or ILY stamp. The Laurent Clerc stamp did not meet one of CSAC's new criteria (which was instituted after the Gallaudet stamp's issuance), which states that "honoree" stamps should be issued for 100-year intervals of birth or death. Laurent Clerc was born in 1787, and it was too late to plan for a 1987 stamp issuance, despite my painstaking efforts. So, since 1987, I have been focusing on the ILY project because it is "generic" in nature, with no correlation to any birth or death anniversary.

By the way, this is not the first ILY stamp. Three other countries have already issued them—Barbados and the Netherlands Antilles in 1981, and Japan in 1991.[1]

With the NAD as official sponsor, I had contacts established with schools for the deaf, with deaf organizations, and with people in Congress—all for a letter-writing campaign to pursue getting the USPS to recognize the Deaf of America with an ILY stamp. Instead of dealing with the CSAC, I sent my letters directly to the Postmaster General. In all instances, the "buck was passed" onto the CSAC—and (with intended pun), the USPS turned a deaf ear on us. The CSAC always said that the ILY idea "would be given consideration," no more nor less. That is their standard hype that they give in response to any idea submissions.

Our activities were not bearing any fruit, probably because the USPS couldn't perceive how the ILY symbol could be effectively explained on a small piece of paper in the form of a postage stamp. With this conjecture, my committee decided to attack the CSAC from the verboten[2] angle by showing them all the possibilities of ILY stamp designs—clearly identifiable and clearly explained. I asked NAD for its approval to hold an ILY Stamp Design Competition during its 1992 Convention so that we could prove that Deaf People showed that the ILY sign can make a good stamp design. The results speak for themselves—all these designs could be done on one stamp while the USPS needed a se-tenant pair of stamps to express the idea effectively.

The USPS's stamp planning and designing process takes a couple of years before the actual stamp's issuance. Obviously, in this case, the idea was in the USPS's halls for several years without NAD's knowledge. When Al Hlibok[3] and I were in Chicago last May for a major philatelic[4] exhibition, we had the chance to meet Chris Calle, a prolific[5] stamp designer (and a hearing person) whom the USPS retains frequently. He never peeped anything, but when the USPS made the announcement of the 1993 stamp program last October, Al and I learned that he'd been the ILY stamp designer all along.

That announcement rattled my nerves [so badly], I burned my TTY (and the ears of New York Relay Service's Communication Assistants), trying to track down the right person in USPS headquarters in Washington, D.C., to get to the bottom of the matter. This effort was complicated by a recent massive reorganization of high-level USPS personnel.

After a few days, I was able to latch onto the right person and since then, we've connected very well.[6] This man is new in the new-issue field and regretted the lack of communication that existed. He had no idea of what went wrong with our plans. I asked him if he knew what the hand symbol in the USPS's designs really meant—how did that handsign represent the idea of "I love you?" He said he had no idea. I then suggested that he take a look at the four winning designs (which had been cleaned up and resized from the originals) so he could see the merit of Deaf people's efforts. I sent them off to him, and when he received them, he finally understood what the ILY symbol meant—but regretted that there was no possibility of backing out of the USPS plan for issuing the se-tenant stamps, as there were schedules to meet and such. The point I was trying to raise to him is that the se-tenant stamp design was not self-explanatory as compared to the Deaf artists' designs. He got the point, but still no dice. [Nonetheless,] my USPS contact promised to keep in touch with me because of NAD's role in promoting Deaf activities.

The NAD is not taking any stance on the stamps. While we are glad that recognition is being given to the invisible and most misunderstood handicap of all, we're disappointed that the USPS did not take the [necessary] steps to have a proper communication process (pun intended) since the ILY stamp idea was first proposed by the NAD in 1987. One must remember that it is a tough task to get a stamp issued out of many subject ideas presented to the CSAC.

The USPS's *se-tenant* ILP stamps, to be issued this summer
(Copyright © 1993 USPS; courtesy of Ken Rothschild)

We're publishing NAD's four winning designs here so our readers can see that there is no lack of creativity in our community, that the designs by Deaf artists would have made excellent choices, that there was no aesthetic[7] reason to bypass them. We hope that they *will* someday be used.

To look on the bright side, an ILY stamp is *finally* going to be issued—and we hope, too, that it's just the beginning, not the end. The NAD has established some sort of direct communication with the USPS. There's always a possibility that the USPS will issue another "ILY" or a new stamp focusing on ASL or Deaf heroes and heroines—with input from the Deaf community. We should continue pushing for stamps that reflect the diversity and richness of our history and language. As Rothschild observes: "The bottom line is that there's a myriad[8] of subject ideas out there waiting to be recognized."

Postage stamps have enormous political, social, and cultural importance. The Deaf community is part of America. Our history is part of our nation's history. Our language has enriched American culture. Our contributions to American history and culture deserve recognition, too—right on the front of the envelope.

The "ILY" Sign: a brief historical note

For the record, the "ILY" sign is technically not ASL, but a combination of three letters of the standard European/American manual alphabet, which has a history of its own. Unlike sign language, the manual alphabet was NOT invented by Deaf people. As best we can tell, it was created by a 16th-century Spanish monk for his deaf pupils, as an aid to speechreading. The "ILY" sign, however, *was* undoubtedly "coined" by Deaf people. Its use, according to Jack Gannon's **Deaf Heritage**, "dates back as far as 1905."

> The I-Love-You symbol . . . was resurrected and became universally popular. . . . While running for president, Jimmy Carter learned it on the campaign trail in Kansas City, Missouri, when he met a group of deaf people at one of his rallies. A picture of him using the symbol appeared in the national press. Following his election, **TIME** magazine printed a color picture of him using the symbol during his inauguration walk down Pennsylvania Avenue in response to greetings from a crowd of deaf well-wishers. (Vice President Walter Mondale, following in an open car, unfamiliar with the symbol, but gamely trying to respond to the same group, was seen innocently waving an obscene gesture!)*

Jimmy Carter certainly helped publicize the ILY sign. Deaf people and their hearing friends have made the "ILY" arguably the best-known sign in the world (competing in popularity with the classic "V-for-victory"). Some Deaf folks adore it. Others are tired of it. It has since been flashed *so* often (even by hearing folks who know nothing about sign language and have no inclination to learn how to communicate with deaf people), and crops up in *so* many photographs, that for some of us it's become an intolerable visual cliché. Overkill, in other words. What was originally a loving gesture has lost most of its significance. The ILY has become the "Smiley Face" of Deaf Culture.

* Jack Gannon, **Deaf Heritage** (Silver Spring, Maryland: NAD, 1981), chapter on American Sign Language, p. 373. The "obscene gesture" that poor Vice President Mondale flashed was the sign for "bull--it," which is made rather like the ILY, but with the thumb tucked inside, on top of the bent middle and ring fingers, and with the opposite palm orientation. People trying to make the ILY for the first time often clumsily end up making the sign for "bull--it."

NOTES

[1] Barbados and the Netherlands Antilles are islands in the Caribbean West Indies. (Actually, the Netherlands Antilles consists of 6 islands.) The tiniest nations often produce stamps of notable beauty and imaginative variety, prized by collectors.

[2] ***verboten***: forbidden (German).

[3] NAD Secretary.

[4] **philatelic**: relating to stamp collecting and study. The noun form is *philately*.

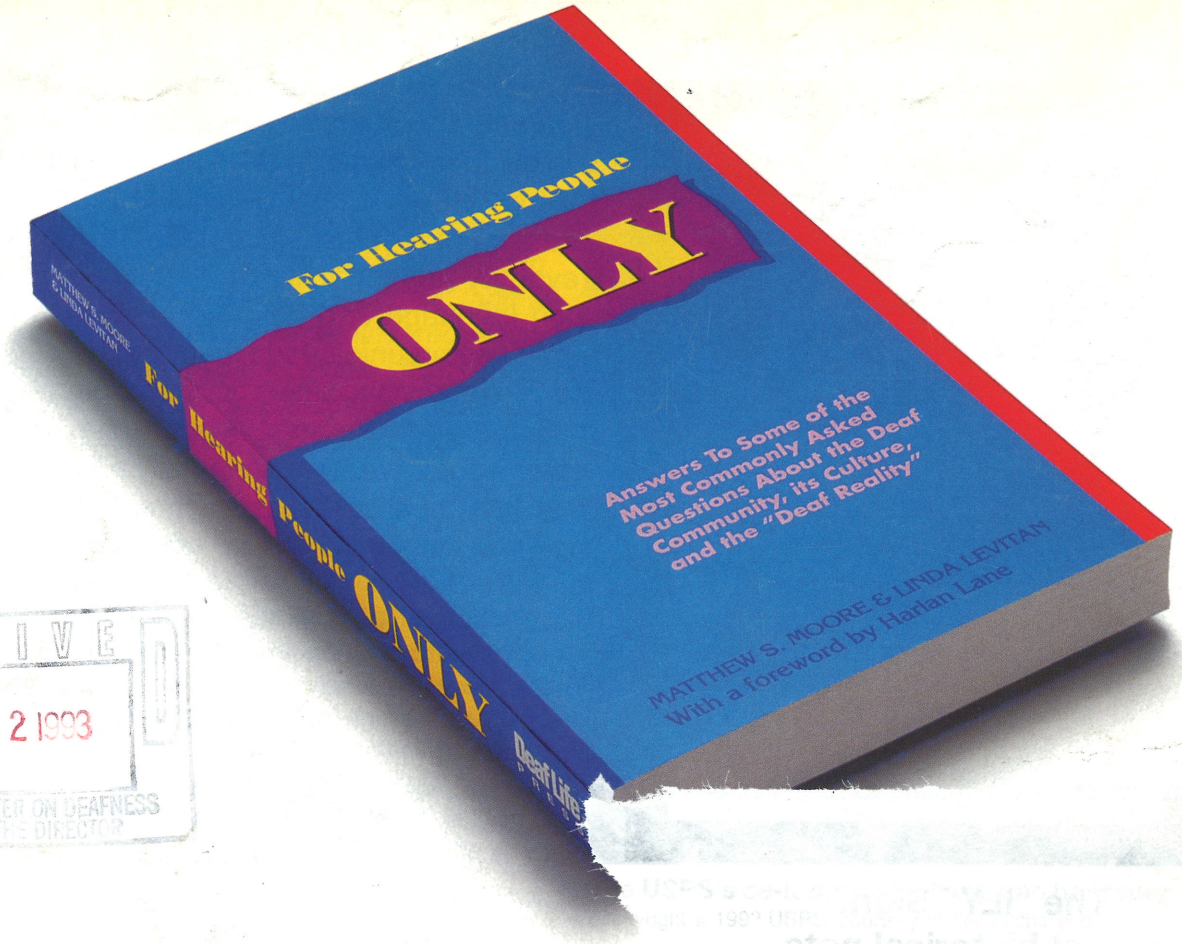
[5] **prolific**: producing much work (for the USPS); high output.

[6] "The official I'm in touch with is not the one who gives final approval to new stamps. This is one of the 'perks' of the Postmaster General (PMG) of he United States to enjoy the final say. (Historical note: The first PMG was Benjamin Franklin, and Amos Kendall, who donated the land Gallaudet University is built on, was also a PMG, appointed by President Andrew Jackson.) It is for the CSAC to decide on the subject idea, and for my contact to coordinate the project, then for the PMG to say "yes" or "no" to the artwork submissions.

"In the case of the 1983 20¢ Thomas H. Gallaudet stamp, two design submissions were presented before the PMG (one by a hearing artist and the other by a Deaf artist, William Sparks—I had to press them to consider a Deaf artist. The sign presentation to PMG William F. Bolger (without any artist identification) resulted in Bolger's selection of the hearing artist's design."—K.R.

[7] **aesthetic**: concerning the sense of beauty; the quality of the artwork.

[8] **myriad**: a very large, indefinite number.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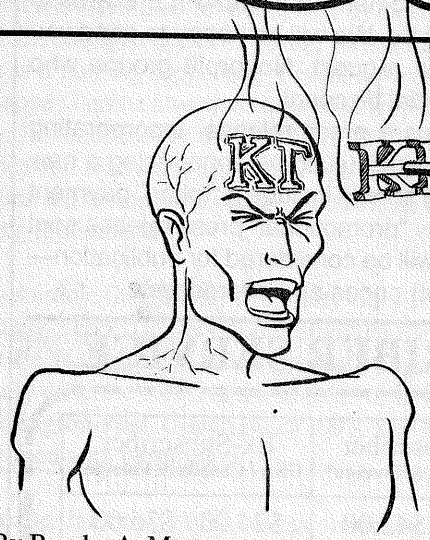

THE END OF THE ROAD FOR KAPPA GAMMA?

Gally Fraternity Gets Third Suspension in 3 Years

By Brooke A. Masters
Staff Writer, **Washington Post***

Gallaudet University has suspended a fraternity for the third time in three years as the school investigates a student's claim that he was hazed° and injured while pledging.

Howard Busby, Vice President for Academic and Student Support Services, said he ordered Kappa Gamma to cease all activities Friday, March 5, two days after a student filed a complaint alleging° that the fraternity had violated the school's new anti-hazing policy during pledge initiation last February.

Gallaudet requires all student organizations to sign hazing compliance° forms promising not to make pledges participate in an "activity that adversely° affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student."

Busby, who spoke through a sign-language interpreter, said he is interviewing the students who were involved with the initiation activities and will decide late this month [i.e., March] whether to ban the fraternity permanently. "The charges are sufficient to warrant a suspension of their activities," he said.

In the complaint, **Kevin Clark** alleged that he passed out and fell and hit his head after Kappa Gamma members forced him to stand for a long time. Clark told school officials that he had been in the hospital because of his injury, Busby said.

Busby said he is trying to determine whether other students were hurt in the initiation.

Clark did not return messages left for him on the school computer system or at the student message center.

Leaders of Kappa Gamma, which was established in 1901 and is not affiliated with any national Greek organization, also did not return messages left at the student message center and in the computer system. The fraternity has about 30 student members and about 1,500 alumni, according to a Gallaudet public-relations official.

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The fraternity was suspended from April to November 1992 after two students filed a complaint charging it with racial harassment and excluding African-Americans. One of the students, senior **Ritchie Bryant**, responded in writing to written questions in an interview after the suspension was lifted. He said fraternity members used a racial epithet° in computer messages and in signed communication.

University President **I. King Jordan** lifted the suspension in November and wrote an all-campus memorandum that "individuals [who belonged to the fraternity] behaved in ways that demonstrate insensitivity at best and racial prejudice at worst, [but] I find no such evidence that the fraternity promoted such behaviors."

The fraternity was allowed to resume its activities if it co-sponsored three campus events with the Black Deaf Student Union and submitted to monitoring by Busby.

"I am outraged at the way King Jordan handled the case. . . . It is as if nothing happened," Bryant said at the time.

Kappa Gamma also was suspended for hazing violations from November 1991 to April 1992, Busby said. That suspension resulted when Busby was given a photograph of the bruised bottom of a pledge who said he had been paddled during initiation.■

* This article (headlined "Fraternity Gets Third Suspension in as Many Years: University Investigating Pledge's Allegations That He Was Injured During Hazing") originally appeared (in slightly different form) in the March 10, 1993 issue of **The Washington Post**. Copyright © 1993, **The Washington Post**. Reprinted with permission.

hazing: initiating into a college fraternity by forcing the pledge (new recruit) to endure harassment or humiliation, or by playing rough practical jokes on him.

alleging: claiming that; formally accusing of.

compliance: formally agreeing to obey the (anti-hazing) law.

adversely: negatively; badly.

racial epithet: an insulting, abusive word used by prejudiced people to describe someone of a certain race or ethnic identity—e.g., "nigger," "coon," "darkie," "wetback," "kike," "Chink," "Jap."

CAUGHT IN THE CHURCH-STATE DEBATE

Must the Taxpayers Provide a Sign-Language Interpreter for a Catholic School Pupil?

by Joan Biskupic
Staff Writer, **Washington Post***

Sandra and **Larry Zobrest** wanted the best education for their deaf son, **Jim**. With the aid of a sign-language interpreter, he had kept pace with other students in public school through the eighth grade.

But when Jim chose a Catholic high school and the public-school district denied his parents' request to pay for an interpreter, the stage was set for a major First Amendment test and one of the most important Supreme Court cases this term.

The significance of *Zobrest v. Catalina Foothills School District* goes beyond the human drama of a deaf student trying to lead a normal life. During a term when church-state cases dominate the high court's docket,[1] this dispute gives the justices a chance to clarify First Amendment doctrine—a tangle of rules that have confounded[2] lower courts, legal scholars, and governments trying to operate lawfully.

The tension arises from the First Amendment's competing mandates.[3] It says government may not support religion nor suppress its free exercise.

The question the justices [faced] in oral arguments [February 24] is whether states may provide, under a federal disability law, a sign-language interpreter for a student who attends a religious school. If the court says yes, it could open the door for greater government involvement in religious affairs, including increased public money for nonsecular schools.

For the first time in history, the Supreme Court [provided] an interpreter to sign the give-and-take between the parties' lawyers and the justices.

The First Amendment says government "shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Generally, the court has said a government program does not "establish," or endorse, religion if it has a clearly secular purpose and effect and does not foster entanglement with religion.

In the past, the court has permitted religious schools to benefit from tax deductions and hands-off payments, allowed assistance for textbooks, and generally been more inclined to allow state support when adult students are involved.

But here the family sought to have a publicly-paid employee join Jim Zobrest on the campus of a religious institution.

"We wanted him to have an appreciation of his religious background, the morality of Catholic schools," Sandra Zobrest said of her son.

Lower courts ruled in favor of the school district's denial of the sign-language interpreter. They said furnishing the interpreter would violate the First Amendment's Establishment Clause by creating an impermissible[4] entanglement of church and state and by advancing religion.

By agreeing to review the case, the Supreme Court already has cast doubt on the rulings.

For the Zobrests, the outcome is likely to determine whether they will be reimbursed for an estimated $28,000 in costs for a sign-language interpreter while Jim attended the Carmelite-run Salpointe high school. Now 18 years old, he was a entering freshman when the case began. He graduated in 1992.

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,

known until 1991 as the Education of the Handicapped Act, requires that states provide certain services to help disabled children get an education. It makes grants to states that defray the costs.

The Catalina Foothills School District qualified Jim Zobrest, who has been deaf since infancy, under the program and paid for a sign-language interpreter when he was in public schools. He had been in special schools when he was younger but "mainstreamed" into the public schools at sixth grade.

"I chose Salpointe because I thought it would give me a good education," Zobrest said in sign language translated by his mother in their home just northeast of Tucson. Zobrest tries to lead the life of a typical 18-year-old. He attends community college, plays pickup basketball in his spare time, and wants to move out his parents' home.

The family is Catholic and Sandra Zobrest attended Catholic schools for virtually all of her education through college. "They felt it essential that, at the time of adolescence, James be enrolled in a religious school," according to the family's brief to the court.

When the Zobrests asked the school district to pay for the interpreter, district officials sought advice from the Pima County attorney. That office's opinion, endorsed by the Arizona attorney general, was that the Constitution barred the hiring of a sign-language interpreter for a Catholic high school. The district said he would be entitled to it if he attended a public or a private, nonsectarian[5] school.

The Zobrests sued, saying that denial of the interpreter violated the federal handicapped law and their free-exercise rights. They said paying for the interpreter themselves, at an estimated $7,000 per year, was an economic hardship.

Lawyers on both sides differ in assessing whether the court's general test looking at a program's purpose and effect, first articulated[6] in 1971, would permit the public-school district to pay for the interpreter at the Catholic school.

The Zobrest family's lead lawyer, **William Bentley Ball** of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, said the primary effect of the interpreter would have been the advancement of Jim's education, not religion. The parents "did not send their son to Salpointe to become a religious zombie," their brief states. "Especially because he is severely handicapped, they wanted him to get what the state regards as proper education."

A high-school education is a high-school education, Ball insists. "The fact that Salpointe is a pervasively[7] religious institution does not alter the fact that, through the interpreter at Salpointe, James worked the same equations in algebra, the same theorems in geometry, and the same conjugations in German that all students in secular schools work."

The school district counters[8] that spiritual growth is the primary effect of a youth attending classes at a Catholic high school. Noting that religion classes are required and Catholic symbols and customs pervade[9] Salpointe, school-district lawyer **John C. Richardson** said, "Because the employee at issue here would participate in the transmission of religious concepts, the interpreter's services become directly related to the primary, religious-oriented educational goals of both Salpointe and the Zobrests. The interpreter's activities thus have a primary effect of promoting religion."

Richardson said providing a human being to interpret classes is not the same as offering textbooks. "As a result of the unique nature of the government services at issue here, the case is distinguishable from other cases where this court has approved government activity that only incidentally aids religion," his brief to the court said.

The Zobrests and the school district also diverge[10] in their idea of the role of a sign-language interpreter. The Zobrests liken the interpreter to a "neutral" and "mechanical" hearing aid. The school district says the interpreter is more akin to a teacher, participating in the religiously-oriented education.

Because an interpreter is a human being, "the potential for political divisiveness,[11] and the appearance of endorsement of religion, are far greater for a publicly employed interpreter as compared to a publicly purchased hearing aid," the Catalina Foothills School District said in its brief to the court.

Overall, the case offers the justices a chance to iron out a church-state jurisprudence[12] that University of Notre Dame Professor **Douglas W. Kmiec** said is "profoundly amiss."

"The court has several formulas that it uses to analyze the First Amendment," said Kmiec, a specialist in First Amendment issues, in a telephone interview. "These tests are extremely idiosyncratic[13] and difficult to apply. It is important for the court to pick one standard, and it would be nice to have that standard go back to the original purpose of the First Amendment . . . to promote religious freedom by neither prohibiting beliefs nor prescribing them."

* This article (headlined "Deaf Student's Case Sets Up Church-State Test,") originally appeared (in slightly different form) in the Sunday, February 21, 1993 issue of **The Washington Post**. Copyright © 1993, **The Washington Post**. Reprinted with permission. **Steven Hardy**, who notified us about this article, too, adds: "The Supreme Court heard the case [on February 24] but it was not fully interpreted for the audience!"

[1] **docket**: a calendar of cases awaiting action in the court.
[2] **confounded**: bewildered, confused.
[3] **mandates** (noun): regulations, legal decrees.
[4] **impermissible**: unconstitutional; not legally allowable.
[5] **nonsectarian**: not affiliated with any religious group; secular.
[6] **articulated**: expressed.
[7] **pervasively**: (adverb) largely; saturated with (religious influence). The verb form is *pervade*.
[8] **counters**: responds with an opposing view.
[9] **pervade**: are found throughout.
[10] **diverge**: disagree; go separate ways.
[11] **divisiveness**: promoting division, argument, and disunity
[12] **jurisprudence**: the philosophy of law; a department or division of law.
[13] **idiosyncratic**: peculiar to a certain individual or case; not broadly applicable.

DEMOCRACY— FOR VOICES ONLY?

We found this "Clipping," an intriguing brief item in the January/February 1993 issue of **Ms. Magazine**, "Home Fires: National News" section (p. 91), which we quote in full:

> **Shannon Merryman** got her point across—loud and clear. The deaf 16-year-old high school student, who uses sign language, won the right to compete in the annual Voice of Democracy contest, a national speech competition for students, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW originally denied her request to submit a video of herself signing a speech, arguing that it was against contest rules. After a lawsuit, however, the VFW got the picture, and allowed Merryman to use an interpreter.

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A CAPITOL IDEA IN TEXAS

For the first time in state history, the Texas Legislature has opened the doors of the political process to deaf citizens by hiring two full-time interpreters.

Sandra Rouse joined the House staff January 4, while **Ella Anderson** began working in September. Both interpret proceedings of their respective chambers as well as committee hearings on request.

Rouse, a state-certified Level IV interpreter with extensive courtroom experience, is familiar with legal terms often used in discussions of legislation. She previously served as an interpreter for a Dallas TV-news program and for the Deaf Action Center of Dallas, and a theatrical interpreter for the Dallas Theater Center. With the ease of a veteran, she handles the large crowds that often fill the House chamber. She also assists the House Committee Services Office with scheduling ad posting. "I hope my new position will increase the [deaf] community's awareness and participation in the political process," she said. She can be contacted for House interpreting services at ☎(512) 463-6324 (TTY/Voice).

Anderson learned to sign growing up in Louisiana as the daughter of Deaf parents. She holds an Associate degree from a community college in New Orleans and has worked in the field for more than 22 years. She's a state-certified Level V interpreter and holds a comprehensive-skills certificate from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She's worked at the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin and as a freelance interpreter. Earlier this year, Anderson "covered" the ribbon-cutting for the new Capitol extension. "I've interpreted in doctors' offices, in classrooms, in jails at 3 a.m. You name it, I've done it," she said. She can be contacted for Senate interpreting services at ☎(512) 475-3758 (TTY) or ☎(512) 463-0070 (Voice). When not interpreting, she works as a guide to the Capitol and the Governor's Mansion.

Sandra Rouse, Interpreter for the Deaf, Texas House of Representatives

Ella Anderson, Interpreter for the Deaf, Texas Senate

As she summed it up: "To give the deaf a voice in their Legislature is a great service for which the deaf are very grateful. The people walking in off the street to see the seat of government don't expect to find an interpreter here. When they do, they are just thrilled."

MARCHING INTO HISTORY

Capital Metropolitan Rainbow Alliance, Inc. (CMRA) is sponsoring a mini-conference for the Deaf Lesbian and Gay community and friends on Saturday, April 24, at the Quality Hotel in Washington, D.C., to coincide with the national March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation (MOW) which is planned for Sunday, April 25.

Events include a Friday-night Icebreaker Party, Saturday workshops, and a Dance. The concluding event is a breakfast on Sunday morning with a motivational speaker/signer, **Patrick Graybill**. After breakfast, participants will go

together to the staging area at the White House Ellipse for the beginning of the March.

There will be four workshops on Saturday—two in the morning and two in the afternoon, with coffee/tea/juice breaks in between. These will cover areas of concern to the Deaf Lesbian and Gay community: 1) PFLAG—panel presentation; 2) Domestic Partnership—panel presentation; 3) Action against Homophobia—audience participation with speaker/signer; and 4) Multicultural Diversity. Anyone interested in presenting at these workshops should contact **Lisa McNiven** at ☎(202) 722-2378 (TTY/Voice).

Combo tickets include Registration, Friday Icebreaker Party, Saturday workshops, Banquet and Entertainment, and Sunday Breakfast. (They do *not* include hotel costs.) April 16 is the final date to obtain combo tickets. No combo tickets will be available at the door; just those for registration, workshops, and entertainment only.

The Quality Hotel is the central location for all CMRA-related events and is just 3 blocks from historic Union Station; a brisk 5- to 10-minute walk from the Capitol; and about a 10- to 15-minute drive from the Washington National Airport. The address is: Quality Hotel Capitol Hill; 415 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.; Washington, D.C. 20001. ☎(202) 638-1616 (Voice). Up to 4 people can share a room. Contact the hotel for more information, and be sure to mention "CMRA" when you make a reservation.

Deaf Lesbian and Gay organizations who plan to come to MOW should bring their banners, which will be hung around the workshop rooms during the weekend of the conference. On Sunday morning they'll be collected by the organizational representatives to carry in the March. Contact **Jules Nelson** to reserve space for your banner. Write to her at 6608 Cockerille Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Tom Kane plans to bring some of the quilts that are part of the Deaf NAMES Project to Washington. If you have a quilt strip that is not yet part of the larger one in San Francisco, and are interested in having it put up for display at the Quality Hotel during the conference, contact Tom. He will arrange for viewing space in the hotel conference room during the weekend.

CMRA-MOW Committee Board members are: **Kent Babson** and **Deanna Tilden**, Co-chairs; **Teresa Davisson** and **Dru Garner**, Finances; **Marlena Rosendahl**, Treasurer-Hospitality; **Ralph Lesley** and **Matt Brown**, Entertainment; **Laurent Baker**, Registration; Lisa McNiven, Workshops; Tom Kane, Deaf NAMES Project; **Sherri Marlow**, Student Liaison; Jules Nelson, Public Relations.

Participants are encouraged to wear purple and pink shirts with jeans and CMRA and MOW buttons and pins to the Sunday-evening event.

For more information, contact: CMRA/MOW Committee, P.O. 33257, Washington, D.C. 20033-0257.

GENERAL MARCH INFORMATION

Sunday, April 26 Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Opening Stage & Assembly Rally, White House Ellipse

Noon: The March Begins!

2:00-6:00 p.m.: Main Stage & Rally

Be a friend of the March. If you plan to attend the March, you're encouraged to register, so that an accurate count of participants can be utilized for organizing efforts and financing. Send your name, address, and ZIP code to: March on Washington, P.O. Box 34607, Washington, D.C. 20043-4607. Donations are welcome. Contributors will receive an information packet which includes a calendar of events, maps, information about the D.C. Metro System, accommodations, MOW newsletter, a certificate, and more.

Who's running the show? There are approximately 120 people on the steering committee representing all 50 states, plus U.S. territories. Many sub-committees also have representation.

National MOW Staff: Billy Hileman, Co-chair & Treasurer; **Deborah Bell**, National Organizer, Office Manager, Morning Rally; **Scout**, Co-chair, Fundraising, Merchandising, & Vendors; **Pat Hussein**, Executive Committee & Outreach; **Jaime Rodriguez**, Executive Committee & Related Events; **Nadine Smith**, Co-chair & Media; **Brett Beemyn**, BiNet USA, Donated Staff & Outreach; **Michelle Crone**, Executive Committee, NGLTF Donated Staff & Rally.

Housing Accommodations: CMRA has booked space at the Quality Hotel. Community housing will be coordinated through the MOW national office. Call ☎(202) 628-0493. Donors in the Washington area are needed.

Campgrounds: Another way to stay in Washington is to camp out:

Cherry Hill Park (very close, right at Route 1 and the Beltway), 9800 Cherry Hill Road, College Park, MD 20740. ☎(301) 937-7116.

Greenbelt Park (country park at Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Beltway, even closer), 6501 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. ☎(301) 344-3984.

R.M. Watkins Regional Park (just outside Beltway at Central Avenue/Route 214), Enterprise Road, Mitchellville, MD 20716. ☎(301) 249-6900.

Cosca Park (south of Beltway near Route 5), 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton, MD 20735. ☎(301) 868-1397.

Patuxent River Park, Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. ☎(301) 627-6074.

Cedarville Natural Resources Management Area, Cedarville and Forest Roads, Brandywine, MD 20613. ☎(301) 888-1622.

Capitol KOA Campground, Millersville, MD at Routes 3, 32, and I-97, east of Washington. ☎(410) 923-2771 or ☎(410) 987-7477.

Duncan's Family Campground KOA, 5381 Sands, Lothian, MD. ☎(301) 627-3909; ☎(301) 267-0993.

Travel: Contact MOW (for more information on the official MOW travel agencies (MOW gets a cut), and local organizations about chartered buses.

Civil Disobedience (CD) is scheduled to be held at the Capitol on Monday, April 26. The focus of the protest will be on Health Care and Civil Rights. The organizers of the CD action aimed at Congress have severed ties with MOW. Legal

reasons and disagreement among March organizers about CD strategy led to this decision. There will be a second action at the Pentagon on the morning of the same day as the Capitol Hill protest, but that protest will not involve CD.

Similar legal concerns over the March's non-profit status led to the organizers of the 1987 CD at the Supreme Court deciding to remain separate from the actual March committee. Over 600 people were arrested in that demonstration protesting the High Court's ruling in the *Hardwick v. Bowers* case. That decision, which upheld sodomy laws that outlaw private sexual relations between consenting same-sex adults, galvanized° the lesbian, gay, and bisexual community and drew a record-breaking 650,000 marchers to the nation's capital.

Steering Committee: MOW held its last national steering-committee meeting the first weekend in February. Three things were decided:

1) The title of the March will not be changed.

2) The demands of the March will not be changed.

3) The CD Committee voted to dissociate itself from the MOW.

The Permits Committee reported that the Park Service has refused to permit the Rally on the Mall "because it is being resodded with grass." This puts the logistical° details of the March and Rally on hold. However, it is VERY important to note that the March will not be postponed. It's going to happen. "We just haven't finalized negotiations with the Park Service."

Related Events: At last count there were 140 events planned for the week prior to the Sunday March.

Lineup: Much of the Lineup was done by lottery. However, the first 17 were decided on by the National Steering Committee. **ASL Culture is 8th.**

The first 17 groups are: 1) Vehicles carrying PWAs, disabled; 2) Da Banner; 3) Seniors/Older/Elders; 4) PWAs/HIVs; 5) Parents with Children; 6) Disabled; 7) Lesbian Health Care & Concerns; 8) **ASL Culture**; 9) Youth; 10) Veterans & Current Military; 11) Lesbian & Gay Bands; 12) PFLAG; 13) NAMES Project; 14) People of Color Organizations; 15) Queers from Other Countries; 16) Colorado; 17) Oregon.

The first March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights was held in 1987. Many participants have been working on the upcoming March, the second one. It promises to be a historic event.

galvanized: roused to action; startled; spurred.

logistical: relating to movement and placement of people; the traffic flow.

WHAT'S DOING IN HONOLULU

A bit of news from the Gallaudet University Regional Center at Kapiolani Community College:

✪ **Marianne Chung**, Program Coordinator for the Governor's Coordinating Council on Deafness, and **Jim Fernandes**, Gallaudet Regional Center Director, conducted a half-day training for 100 employees of the Hawaii State Department of Personnel Services (DPS) on February 16. Participants received an overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as it relates to deaf and hard-of-hearing citizens, an introduction to the Deaf Community, and tips for effective communication. DPS is the hiring agency for state employees.

✪ With encouragement from the ADA and activism by the Hawaii chapter of (Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH), movie theaters on the island of Oahu are getting "wired" for sound. **Virginia Lee Johnson**, Vice President of Ohana Kokoa Ano Kuli ("A Helping Hand for Hard of Hearing People"—Hawaii's SHHH chapter), arranged a special matinee at Consolidated Theaters of Kahala Mall on February 27. Over 20 hard-of-hearing people and family members attended to try out the new infrared assistive listening device now available at these and other theaters. The group helped evaluate the system and provided suggestions to theater managers on how best to make their movie houses accessible to hard-of-hearing customers.

✪ Accessibility to on-stage theatrical productions also continues to expand in Hawaii. An increasing number of local theatres are funding interpreted performances with partial support from the Regional Center, Aloha State Association of the Deaf, and Very Special Arts. This February, 61 members of the Deaf Community attended three such plays at different theatres. This is one result of a Gallaudet University Adult Community Education internship project implemented° by **Linda Miller**, who chairs the Consumer Education Committee of Hawaii Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

✪ A Transition Conference, *Getting Ready for Leadership*, for deaf and hard-of-hearing intermediate and high-school students from all the Hawaiian Islands, is being held at the Statewide Center (Hawaii's school for the deaf) on April 12. Featured presenters include **Bummy Burstein**, award-winning Deaf Parliamentarian° and Media Supervisor at California School for the Deaf-Riverside, and **Lil Tompkins**, teacher and reading and writing from the Model Secondary School for the Deaf in Washington, D.C.

implemented: put into action; kicked off.

parliamentarian: an expert in *parliamentary procedure*—knowing how to conduct legislative meetings, debates, panels, etc., according to certain rules and customs which keep everything running smoothly in an orderly and fair way.

EASING THE TRANSITION

The New York School for the Deaf ("Fanwood") has been selected by the Social Security Administration to participate in a National Pilot Program called "Graduating to Independence." The SSA's Office of Disability is responsible for the multi-media program, which includes a book, video, and computer software, all designed to help disabled youths

understand the government benefits they may receive after leaving school as they make the transition from school to work.

Under the guidance of Dr. **David A. Spidal**, NYSD's Director of Transitional, Living, and Career Services, Fanwood is beginning the pilot program this spring. The SSA will follow up with evaluation forms later in the year. The feedback received will enable the SSA to refine the materials for more widespread distribution.

THEIR BRILLIANT CAREERS

In an effort to recognize the accomplishments of students enrolled in schools and programs for the deaf in the United States, the American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) has established a recognition program called the *Who's Who in American Schools and Programs for the Deaf Award.* Through this program, ASDC seeks to identify those high-school juniors or seniors who display in their lives quality of integrity, balance, citizenship, and caring for others. These are qualities promoted by parents and ASDC.

In 1992, the *Who's Who in American Schools and Programs for the Deaf Award* was limited to American residential schools. Initial response was strong, with 46 certificates issued to students from 24 schools. A mechanism is now being developed to include all public, day, and mainstream programs.

The award program is designed to give schools discretion° over who is nominated. Parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing students would surely want this included among their child's school awards.

For criteria and application information, call ASDC at ☎1-800-942-ASDC or write to: ASDC, East 10th and Tahlequah, Sulphur, OK 73086.

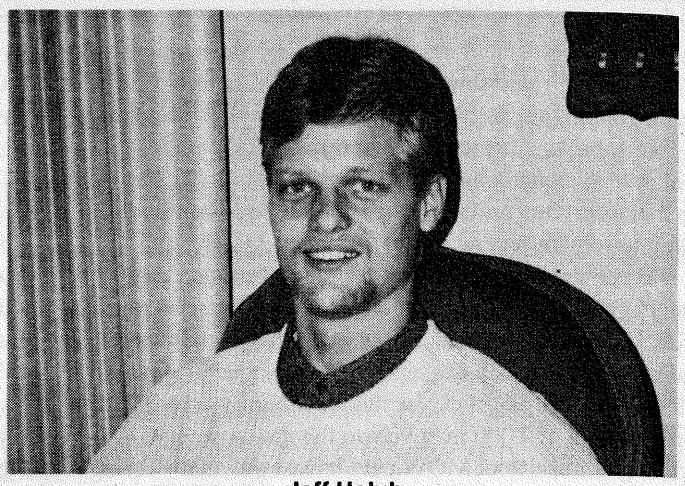
discretion: the ability to decide.

FORT WAYNE'S OWN "MR. GOODWRENCH"

Jeff Holub, 30, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has received a top community award for his efforts in increasing awareness of the Deaf community and for helping to bring closed-captioning of local newscasts to the Fort Wayne area. His efforts helped Fort Wayne get 9-1-1 TDD service, and TDDs and TeleCaption decoders in the three main community hospitals.

Each year, 15 area residents are chosen to receive an "Outstanding Volunteer" award for their dedication to their communities. This was the 7th annual event, sponsored by Switchboard and WANE-TV (Channel 15).

Holub, who moved to Fort Wayne from Janesville, Wisconsin, served as president of the Northeastern Indiana Deaf



Jeff Holub

Awareness Council for two years, and is also on the DeafLink Advisory Board. He works at General Motors, and is married to the former **Kim Reed**. They have three children: twins **Stacey** and **Stephanie**, 8, and **Chad**, 6.

—Barbara J. Sieminski

A NEW HAND AT MINNESOTA RELAY

Deafness, Education & Advocacy Foundation of Minnesota (D.E.A.F.), has hired **Vicki Anderson** as a part-time trainer for the Minnesota Relay Service. She is a graduate of Gallaudet University and most recently worked at the new Minnesota Historical Society, researching and assisting in the setup of a permanent Deaf History exhibit.

Her main responsibility as a trainer is to assist the Human Resources staff in recruiting qualified Communication Assistants. This includes interviewing applicants and assisting in the selection process. She also assists the CAs with identifying and translating ASL to English and English to ASL when necessary. And she'll be presenting Deaf Culture workshops for staff.

Address: D.E.A.F., 104 East Seventh Place, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2004. Information and Referral Service: ☎(612) 296-7393; ❐(612) 296-9781 (FAX).

WHAT'S DOING IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA

✹ **For youth at risk:** United Hearing & Deaf Services, Inc. has established an Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Program for At-Risk Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Youth (ages 16-21). This program has been awarded a $50,000 grant from the Governor's Drug-Free Communities Program. **Teri Mosier** is Project Director.

This Prevention Program is designed to educate and counsel

young people and their families, through group and individual activities, to help them all develop coping and decision-making skills. UHDS is seeking deaf and hard-of-hearing volunteers willing to engage in inter-generational activities and to act as positive role models. Through extensive networking, service coordination, public outreach and speaking engagements, the project will increase public and professional awareness of the special risks and needs of this target population. For more information, contact Ms. Mosier or **Amy Schwartzberg**, Director of Social Services, at ☎(305) 731-7203 (TTY/voice). Deaf Contact: ☎(305) 731-7200 (TTY/Voice).

✷ **Signing Saturday** is the popular skills-enhancement program sponsored by UHDS. It gives sign-language students an opportunity to practice their skills with Deaf people socially and in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Get-togethers are held on the fourth Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at UHDS. If you'd like to participate or would like additional information, call UHDS at the above number.

✷ UHDS is located at 4850 W. Oakland Park Boulevard, Suite 207, Lauderdale Lakes, Florida 33313.

ANGELS WANTED, ALL AUDIENCES WELCOME

Last month, we carried an announcement ("Garden of Variety") about L.A. Bridges Theatre Company of the Deaf. We've since received several corrections, including the TTY/FAX number:

The L. A. Bridges Theatre Company now consists of 5 Deaf, one hard-of-hearing, and 5 hearing performers. Its first production, **Edward Albee's *Everything in the Garden***, opens April 9 at the Gene Bua Theatre in Burbank, California, and runs 5 weeks. **Jennifer Delora** is the producer; **Leslie Byrne** (who's co-producer of ***Caption This*** and on the board of Deaf Entertainment Foundation [DEF]) is the director. The cast includes: Jennifer Delora, **Ron Kleiger**, **Olaf Axelsen**, **Laura Gardner**, **Bruno Maucere**, **Wendy Wiewel**, **Nick Vera**, **Don Lyons**, **Karen Harvey**, and **Dave Sladek**.

For ticket information: ☎(213) TKTS (8587), Voice only. For more information on L. A. Bridges, call ☎(213) 654-7855 (TTY/Voice) or ☎❐(213) 650-4758 (TTY/FAX only).

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Jennifer Delora (Red Jenn), L.A. Bridges' Artistic Director, is now seeking community support. She writes: "I have founded the L.A. Bridges Theatre Company of the Deaf in order to share the beauty of Deaf culture with the entire Los Angeles community. As a Hard-of-Hearing actor, I realize there is a greater need for more theatre performed in Sign Language (with voice interpretation) and employing other Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing actors, directors, tech crew, and other artists in the Deaf community.

"Another goal of our company is to offer the same caliber of acting classes, casting-director seminars, and workshops that are available to the hearing acting community. We will also have agent and casting-director showcases to find representation and work for our actors. These classes will be offered in ASL or interpreted into ASL, and offered to the Deaf community at reduced rates or on scholarships, and, of course, will be open to hearing actors as well.

"[Our] mission is to bridge the gaps between the Deaf and hearing worlds by bringing artists together to work in harmony and showcasing the beauty and talent of our Deaf community! Our first production, ***Everything in the Garden*** by Edward Albee, [started] rehearsals March 5th and opens April 9th for a 5-week run at the Gene Bua Theatre in Burbank."

Want to show your support? Become an angel! L.A. Bridges is a non-profit organization and needs your help to establish it as a long-term resident of Los Angeles.

Bronze Angel: Under $100
Silver Angel: $101-$250
Golden Angel: $251-$500
Platinum Angel: $501-$999
Emerald Angel: $1,000-$5,000
Diamond Angel: $5,000 and above

Your donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, contact L.A. Bridges Co. of the Deaf at 1340 N. Crescent Heights #1, West Hollywood, CA 90046. ☎(213) 654-7855 (TTY/Voice); ☎❐(213) 650-4758 (TTY/FAX).

ON THE BOARDS

A reminder: New York Deaf Theatre's ASL production of Charles Ludlam's ***The Mystery of Irma Vep*** will be performed April 7-10 and 14-17 at 8 p.m., and April 11 and 18 at 2 p.m., at the Hudson Guild Theatre (441 West 26th St., between 9th and 10th Avenues) in Manhattan. Directed by **Monique Holt** and **Tony Allicino**, this "ridiculous comedy" stars **Mikey Krajnak** and **Iosef Shneiderman**, with Voice Interpreters **Tom Souhrada** and **Teri Sweeney**.

For performance or ticket information, call NYDT at ☎(212) 924-9535 (TTY) or ☎(212) 924-9491 (Voice); or write to 305 Seventh Avenue, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

SMART CASTING

Juan Flores, a Fanwood junior, starred in the Westchester Community College production of ***Mother Hicks*** on February 26-27 and March 3-7. Written by **Susan Zeder**, the play won the Distinguished Play Award from the American Alliance of Theatre and Education. Several WCC performances were interpreted.

Flores, of Newburgh, New York, portrayed the play's narrator and the character Tuc, a deaf shopkeeper who befriends Mother Hicks. WCC opened the auditions to students from NYSD to ensure that the role was filled by a deaf person. In addition to some stage work with ***. . . and then there's Magic!*** and the Fanwood/Woodlands High School production of ***Our Town***, Flores hosts NYSD's television show ***Fanwood Forum***.

GETTING 'EM INTO THE ACT

Andy Vasnick, a founding member of the National Theatre of the Deaf, and two Deaf and two hearing actors from the Fairmount Theatre of Deaf (Cleveland, Ohio), spent a month-in-residence conducting dramatic workshops with students at The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Germantown. (Vasnick is an alumnus of PSD.) The five actors arrived at PSD on February 22 and worked at the school through March 19. About 100 of PSD's 160 students participated in the program.

The activity was part of the "Instant Theatre" program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS). Philadelphia and PSD were one of only four sites which the theatre troupe has been visiting this year.

At PSD, the actors worked with small groups of elementary- and middle-school students employing various mime, improvisation, storytelling, and theatre-game techniques. Students also participated in several technical-theatre workshops, to learn about the creation of scenery using tools and hardware, as well as lighting theory and its applications in the theatre.

At the end of the residency program at PSD, a fully-staged play, ***Owl Be***, was performed in ASL and spoken English.

ANOTHER PEEK BEHIND THE MASK

On January 14, 37 students and instructors from the Scranton State School for the Deaf attended an interpreted performance of ***The Phantom of the Opera*** in New York City. Following the performance, interpreters and actors came out on the stage to answer questions from the deaf students and their teachers.

Funding for the event was provided through a grant from the Arts in Special Education Project of Pennsylvania. SSSD

Instructor **Gail O'Rourke** and Principal **Sandra Hyman** co-authored the successful grant application. O'Rourke noted, "This was a great opportunity for our students. It would not have been possible if it weren't for the Arts in Special Education Project."

Students attending SSSD represent over 50 school districts in Pennsylvania.

DESTINATION ALASKA: TDI'S 10TH CONVENTION

Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. (TDI) is holding its 10th International Convention on May 24-29, at Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage, Alaska. TDI welcomes and invites you to take advantage of an exciting opportunity. Learn more about the latest adaptive technologies, the new infrastructure, international standards, telecaptioning, equipment, and current ADA issues. You, the consumer, will have the opportunity to get involved with telephone companies, the TV industry, and 9-1-1 services, to express your concerns and needs. Also learn about the certification, evaluation, and complaint processes for telecommunications relay services (TRS).

Exhibits will be displayed daily; nightly socials are planned. Evenings are free for you to explore the wonders of Alaska's glaciers and mountains. Join a scenic tour or fishing boat, or just watch the glorious sunset.

Reduced airfares and room rates are available for this conference. For more information, contact the Alaska Association of the Deaf at ☎(907) 333-7545 (TTY) or ☎(907) 333-4351 (Voice).

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Tentative Schedule:

Tuesday, May 25: Telecaptioning

Wednesday, May 26: Workshops on Telecommunication Emergency Access

TTY Distribution Programs

Thursday, May 27: TRS

Friday, May 28: The Big Picture: Technology & Infrastructure of Telecommunication Services

Saturday, May 29: Open Forum on Relay Services

Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc.
8719 Colesville Road, Suite 300
Silver Spring, MD 20910
☎(301) 589-3006 (TTY)
☎(301) 589-3786 (Voice)
❒(301) 589-3797 (FAX)

New Blue Book: TDI's famous blue book, **1993 Directory for Text Telephone Users**, is out. The current edition has about 31,000 TTY numbers from all over the States and some from other countries. All known "800" toll-free TTY numbers are listed. This is the best national telephone-resource book for TTY users, fun to browse through and find your friends' TTY numbers—or locate resources (agencies, schools, organizations) as well as businesses, airlines, and stores. FAX numbers are included, too.

All TDI members receive a copy of the **Directory**, plus the quarterly **GA-SK Newsletter** about telecommunications. Non-members can buy the **Directory**. For more information, contact TDI at the above number.

HOT OFF THE PRESSES

Camps: The National Information Center on Deafness (NICD) at Gallaudet University has just published the newest edition of **Summer Camps for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children**. This list of over 80 camps will help parents and others looking for summer-camp programs for deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Each of the camps listed provided NICD with camp dates, contact and clientele information, and fees. Copies are $3.00 each, prepaid. See address below.✏

Clubs: An updated edition of **Clubs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People** is also available. It's a helpful tool for people who want to locate clubs in their own locale° or in areas where they plan to travel or move. As **Jack R. Gannon** says in the foreword, "This has been a long time in coming!"

This directory was compiled from completed questionnaires sent to clubs across the country. In addition to the list of clubs, 12 national organizations of deaf and hard-of-hearing people, and their chapters, are included. These groups can be another important source for meeting other deaf and hard-of-hearing people and sharing common interests. Copies are available for $5.00 each prepaid.✏

Children's books: NICD has revised a popular publication called **Have You Ever Wondered About Hearing Loss and Deafness? An Annotated Bibliography of Children's Books about Hearing Loss, Deafness and Deaf and Hard of Hearing People**. It will be a welcome resource for libraries and schools to help parents and teachers explain to hearing children about hearing loss. This completely new edition includes over 168 annotations of children's fiction and nonfiction books about deaf and hard-of-hearing people and hearing loss. Included are books about Helen Keller and sign-language books for children. There are also 19 annotations of instructional-resource materials for teachers introducing hearing students to the subject. This bibliography is available for $8.00 prepaid.✏

Coming clean: NICD has compiled a current list of over 80 alcoholism and substance-abuse programs and numerous resources accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing people. **Programs and Resources for Deaf Alcoholics and Substance Abusers** identifies programs throughout the country that provide specific services to people who are deaf and hard-

The book you've been waiting for is here!

For Hearing People

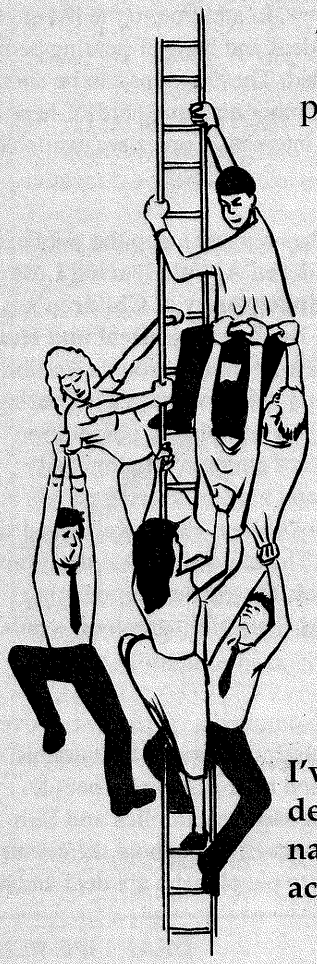
ONLY

By Matthew S. Moore and Linda Levitan,

Co-Editors-in-Chief, **DEAF LIFE**

With a foreword by **Harlan Lane,**

author of *When the Mind Hears* and
The Mask of Benevolence: Disabling the Deaf Community



Written in a simple, clear, nontechnical style for those without any prior background. Here in one handy volume, in a question-and-answer format, are concise answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about the Deaf community, its culture, sign language, and communication. All 48 chapters of the popular "For Hearing People Only" feature from the first 4 years of **DEAF LIFE** are included—newly revised, expanded, and illustrated.

"A masterpiece! Something long overdue in Deaf America... a valuableresource material in generating a sense of integration, collaboration, partnership and reciprocity among all concerned, deaf and hearing alike."

—Dr. Frank Turk, Director,
Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing,
North Carolina Department of Human Resources

I've noticed that successful deaf persons are always put down by other deaf people, by means of lack of support and gossip—back-stabbing, name-calling, nasty rumors. Can't deaf people appreciate successful achievers who benefit their community?

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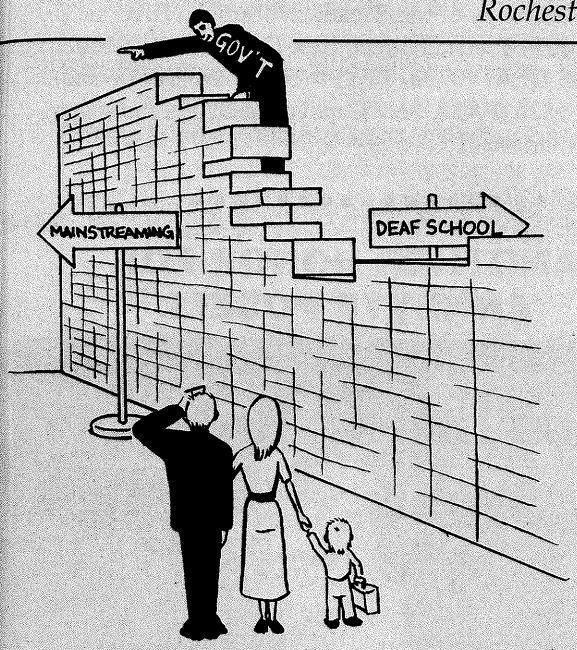
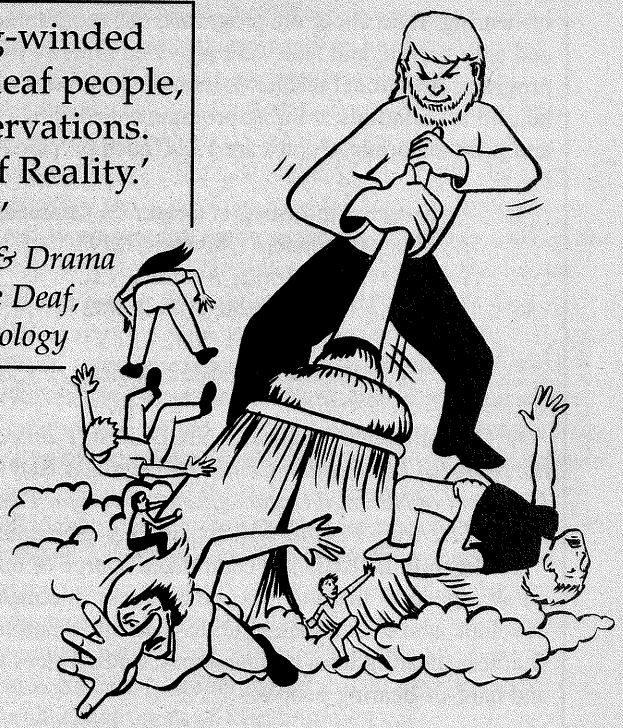
—Dr. Robert F. Panara, Emeritus Professor of English & Drama at National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology



Why is there a movement to close down residential schools for the deaf in this country?



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of-hearing. Data about the programs, the geographical area and ages served, and fees were provided directly by each program. Additional resources include information about helpful associations, training programs, directories, and media and print materials. Copies are $3.00 each prepaid.✏

National Information Center on Deafness
Gallaudet University/M93
800 Florida Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
☎(202) 651-5052 (TTY)
☎(202) 651-5052 (Voice)

✏ Complimentary copies of NICD's list, *Publications from the National Information Center on Deafness*, and the *1993 Directory of National Organizations of and for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People*, will accompany each paid order.

Background: NICD is a centralized source of information on all aspects of hearing loss and deafness. It collects, develops, and disseminates° up-to-date information on deafness, hearing loss, organizations, and services for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

locale: local area.
disseminates: publishes, distributes.

SUPERDOME: GETTING IT RIGHT

Deaf Action Center of Greater New Orleans sent us an intriguing clipping from the March 4 issue of **The Times-Picayune**. An article by Staff Writer **Joan Treadway**, "Dome has $2 million plan to meet needs of disabled," focuses on the Superdome's plans to equip its northwestern quadrant with signs in Braille and raised letters, TDDs, "and folding seats that will allow people using wheelchairs to enter a row along with their families." After the equipment is installed, deaf and disabled people will be invited to test it. As soon as everything's working satisfactorily, "it will be duplicated throughout the building."

On March 3, Superdome officials presented the plan to representatives of several organizations assisting deaf and disabled residents of metropolitan New Orleans, including DAC, "and got positive feedback." In the past, retrofitting—altering an already-built facility—was often undertaken without input from these people. It didn't work well. The Superdome is determined to get it right.

Treadway's article notes: "Superdome operators already had begun to make the structure more accessible to disabled people, even before a new federal law mandating such accommodations was passed. . . . Now, they are running ahead of schedule in meeting the demands of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991."

Says the DAC: "Thumbs up!"

Treadway adds: "The Superdome's $2 million plan to make the building better for people with handicaps should be fully implemented in about two years . . . the federal deadline is several months later."

As the DAC points out, "The New Orleans Superdome is home of the Sugar Bowl, a frequent site for the Super Bowl, and this year's site for the NCAA Final-Four Basketball Tournament."

(Thanks to the Deaf Action Center of Greater New Orleans for faxing us a copy of Ms. Treadway's article. DAC's address is 1231 Prytania Street, New Orleans, LA 70130. ☎(504) 525-DEAF (3323) TTY; ☎(504) 525-7911 (Voice); (504) 525-9826 (FAX). See "CaptionWatch" for more news about New Orleans.)

ANOTHER HONOR FOR ANNETTE POSELL

Annette Posell

In February, **Justin Dart**, Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, announced that The Caption Center's **Annette Posell** had been honored with membership in the Committee.

Posell, who became deaf as a teenager, joins the 600-member committee in leading the nation to greater opportunities and acceptance for all Americans with disabilities. Committee members are chosen from among leaders with outstanding records in furthering jobs for citizens with disabilities.

Currently Manager of Corporate Development, Posell has been on the staff of The Caption Center at WGBH in Boston for more than 10 years. An outspoken advocate for the rights of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, Posell testified before the Senate Communications Subcommittee on behalf of the Television Decoder Circuitry Act. This act, which becomes effective in July 1993 (only a few months away!), mandates° built-in circuitry to display closed-captions in all

television sets with screens over 13 inches manufactured for sale in the United States. (Even if they're manufactured abroad, they're required to have the decoder chip.)

In addition to the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, Posell serves on the boards of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Clearinghouse, the National Theatre of the Deaf, the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Brookline Commission for the Disabled, and Gallaudet University Regional Center.

She holds a Master's degree in Special Education from Columbia University and taught reading and language to deaf students at several elementary and high schools, and to deaf-blind teenagers at the Perkins School for the Blind in Massachusetts. She joined The Caption Center in 1978 as a member of the Multi-Level Linguistic Captioning Project, an effort designed to facilitate° caption-reading for deaf children.

Background: The President's Committee, founded in 1947 by President Harry S Truman and supported by each succeeding president, provides the national Job Accommodation Network information center (☎1-800-JAN-7234), conducts national education and information programs, and works through its members and governors' committees in each state to improve job-market opportunities for all people with disabilities.

mandates (verb): requires by law.
facilitate: make easier.

JUDITH HEUMANN NEW HEAD OF O.S.E.R.S.

Judith Heumann, Co-Founder and Vice President of the World Institute on Disability in Oakland, California, has been nominated by President **Bill Clinton** to be Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education (OSERS). She replaces Dr. **Robert Davila**, who is now seeking new employment.

For 20 years, Heumann has been instrumental° in the fight to obtain equality for disabled individuals. Representative **George Miller** of California praises her highly: "She is one of those rare individuals who has changed the lives of millions of Americans through her perseverance,° her advocacy, and her extraordinary leadership skills. She is internationally recognized as one of the most knowledgeable and effective spokespeople and activists in her field, and she is also superbly familiar with federal and state policy issues and political strategies." **Ms. Magazine** designated her as one of the "80 Women to Watch in the 80's." And, in recognition of her commitment and success toward "unhandicapping society," she was the first recipient of the Prince Charitable Trusts' Henry B. Betts Award.

Heumann became disabled at the of one-and-a-half as a result of polio. She was not allowed to attend her neighborhood school in Brooklyn, New York, because the principal claimed that her wheelchair was a fire hazard. After 3-1/2 years of home instruction, she was bused to a "Health Conservation" class for disabled children in a school basement.

After graduating from Long Island University, she applied for a teaching position in the New York City school system. She was denied the job because she was unable to walk. After filing a lawsuit against the Board of Education, she became the first wheelchair user to teach in the New York City schools.

She then served as a legislative assistant for nearly two years to Senator **Harrison Williams**, who was Chair of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. In that capacity, she worked on the Education for All Handicapped Children's Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

In 1975, she became the Deputy Director of the Center for Independent Living in Berkeley, While there, she helped design the California and federal independent-living legislation which resulted in the creation of over 200 independent-living centers nationwide. She was appointed in 1982 as Special Assistant, Community Affairs, to the Director of the California Department of Rehabilitation.

Ten years ago, Heumann co-founded the World Institute on Disability (WID), a public-policy, research, and training organization with a primary focus on the issues that affect disabled people. As WID's Vice President and the Director of its Research and Training Center on Public Policy in Independent Living, Heumann has played a major role in creating an organization that is considered a global "think tank" concerning disability-related issues.

The breadth of her experience is indicated by the many boards on which she serves. These include: Executive Committee, National Council on Independent Living; Assistant National Secretary, U.S. Council on International Rehabilitation; Advisor, President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities; Advisor, National Council on Disability; Chairperson, Disabled Peoples' International, USA; Board member, Center for Independent Living; and Board member, Over 60's Health Center Project. She was Co-Founder of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities.

Upon hearing of her nomination, she said, "I am honored that I have been nominated by President Clinton for this position. I look forward to working with Secretary **Riley** and Undersecretary **Kunnin**. I have dedicated my work over the last 20 years to helping to improve the quality of life for disabled Americans. My nomination shows that the Administration is committed to the [cause of equal rights for all disabled people]."

instrumental: playing a vital role.
perseverance: refusing to give up.

VIRTUAL REALITY RETURNS!

On June 17-18, California State University, Northridge (CSUN) will sponsor an international conference on Virtual Reality (VR) and Persons with Disabilities at the Westin Hotel at San Francisco's International Airport. It covers all disabilities and offers lectures and demonstrations on the use of virtual reality and other interactive media.

Industry leaders **Walter Greenleaf** of Greenleaf Medical Systems, **Walt Fischer** of Domain Simulations, **Tom Coull** of Sense8, and **Dave Johnson** of TiNi Alloy will form a CEO° panel to address° the potential benefits of VR to persons with disabilities.

Dr. **John Trimble**, President of Prairie Technologies, Chicago, Illinois, will demonstrate "Virtual Barrier-Free Design," or "Wheelchair VR," which allows a wheelchair user to travel in a 3-D simulation° of an architectural environment to see if it is accessible and user-friendly. This and many other applications of VR, including the use of the DataGlove as a communication device for persons with disabilities, will be demonstrated at the conference, with speakers from across the U.S., Canada, and Australia slated for presentations.

This VR conference is co-sponsored by Greenleaf Medical Systems, **CyberEdge Journal**, Pacific Bell, the California Department of Rehabilitation, and the TRACE Center of the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

For more information, contact:

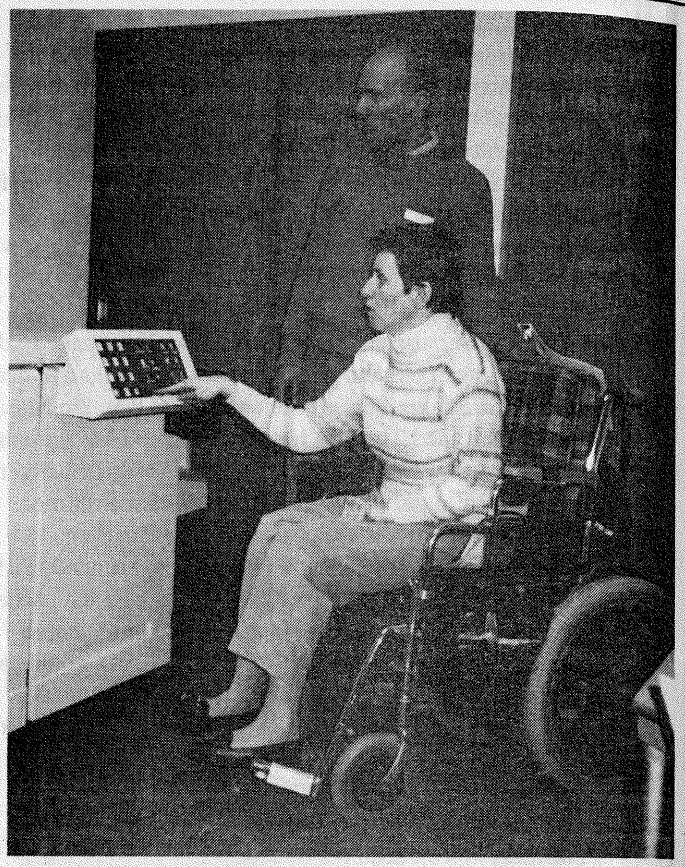
Dr. **Harry J. Murphy**, Conference Director
Office of Disabled Student Services
California State University, Northridge (CSUN)
18111 Nordhoff St.—DVSS
Northridge, CA 91330
☎: (818) 885-2578
❒(818) 885-4929 (FAX/Message)
E-mail: VR@VAX.CSUN.EDU

CEO: Chief Executive Officer.
address: discuss; deal with; confront.
simulation: here, a "pretend" environment; imitation of reality.

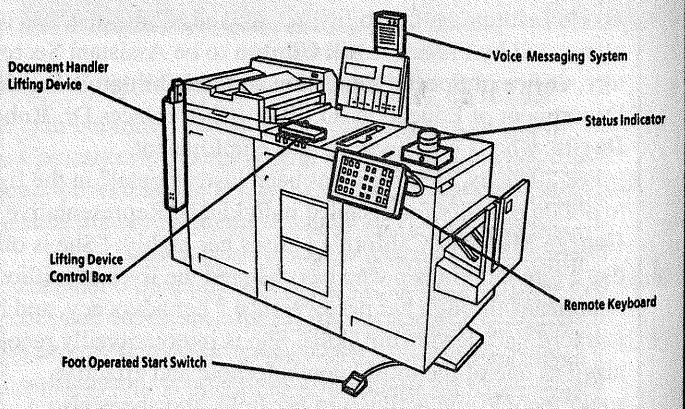
DUPLICATE THIS, PLEASE

On February 22, a unique event took place at the Xerox site on Jefferson Road in suburban Rochester. It demonstrated how a large corporation and a not-for-profit human-services agency can work together to improve the quality of life in a community. **Lisa Sykes**, Rochester Rehabilitation Center's Workable Environments consultant, offered 20 Xerox engineers an opportunity to experience firsthand some of the daily challenges faced by individuals with disabilities.

RRC is providing disability-awareness training to Xerox employees in recognition and support of the company's aggressive efforts to meet the needs of disabled people in the workplace. **Dave Zuhlke**, National Account Sales Operations manager with Xerox's U.S. Customer Operations Group, said: "We believe that the insight gained on the 22nd will enable members of the Xerox team to develop and market equipment which is sensitive to the needs of business owners and potential employees as well."



Remote possibilities: Rochester Rehabilitation Center staff member Ron Szczesniak and volunteer Carol Witkowitz test the Xerox 1090 copier system and adaptive kits. She's touching the remote keyboard. Other customized features include a foot-operated start switch, voice-messaging system, status-indicator dome light (easily visible from a wheelchair), and a document-handler lifting device and control box.



RRC became partners with Xerox earlier this year when the Center was chosen as the first of three national test sites to

participate in a pilot project to evaluate a copier system that has been modified for use by people with various disabilities. RRC was chosen in part because of the wide variety of programs and services it offers to individuals with physical and mental disabilities. Volunteers from the Center's programs tested the adapted copier and provided Xerox with feedback regarding the effectiveness of specific modifications. Xerox hopes to use this information to further develop the modifications and training components before marketing the equipment nationwide to potential employers.

During the February 22 training session, members of the Xerox project team temporarily assumed a new identity—the identity of a worker with a mobility, visual, or hearing impairment. While in this identity, each participated in everyday tasks such as crossing the street, using the restrooms, and accessing office equipment. Afterwards, participants shared their experiences in a group discussion facilitated by Sykes and three volunteers with disabilities.

Workable Environments was developed by RRC to assist local employers in meeting the "reasonable accommodations" requirement of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Many local employers have called upon Workable Environments to recommend ways to make their worksites more accessible to both employees and customers. Disability-awareness training is just one of the services offered.

Everyone knows someone with a physical or mental disability. There are over 43 million Americans today who fall into this category. Ability to work can be greatly impaired and with 3,000,000 people becoming disabled each year, there should be widespread interest in local efforts to increase opportunities for this segment of our population.

As one former disability-awareness participant commented: "You think you're pretty well in tune to the needs of the disabled until you step into their shoes."

"GIVE MORE THAN YOU TAKE"

It has been little more than one year since the first phases of the ADA, those addressing access to public transportation and public facilities, took effect. Just 8 months ago, the employment provisions were added, prohibiting discrimination in the hiring and promoting of people with disabilities.

"Easter Seals is encouraged by the spirit with which corporate America has begun to embrace this landmark civil-rights legislation, and we want to do everything possible to help make the transition to an inclusive, accessible environment," said **James E. Williams**, Jr., President and CEO of the National Easter Seal Society.

To help businesses and other organizations keep abreast of and implement the provisions of the ADA, the National Easter Seal Society is offering the 1993 edition of **The Americans with Disabilities Act Resource Catalog**, a 13-page library of products and promotional pieces covering all aspects of the ADA, including education, hospitality, housing, legislation, employment, and transportation. Among the newest items are brochures, videotapes, and audiotapes produced for the 1993 Easter Seal campaign—*All of Us Have the Ability to Make a Difference*.

Of particular interest is ***A Wise Approach***, a videotape that celebrates the spirit of volunteerism through the work of **Virgil Craft**, a disabled resident of Wise, Virginia. Says Williams: "Virgil lives by one simple motto, and that's 'You should always give more than you take.'" ***A Wise Approach*** can be used as a companion piece to other favorite ADA products available through the National Easter Seal Society, such as ***Part of the Team*** and ***Nobody is Burning Wheelchairs***. All are valuable resources for effectively training employees on disability-related issues and creating accessible environments.

Copies of the newly-revised catalog are available by request from the Administrative Services Department of the National Easter Seal Society, 70 E. Lake Street, Chicago, IL 60601. ☎(312) 726-4258 (TTY); ☎(312) 726-6200 (Voice); ❐(312) 853-4067 (FAX).

FEARLESS LEADERS WANTED

National Fraternal Society of the Deaf (FRAT) has two position openings: Grand President and Agency Director.

The Grand President, as the chief administrative officer, has full responsibility for the administration of FRAT's day-to-day affairs, implementing policy established by the Society Bylaws and the Board of Directors, and the operation of FRAT's Home Office in Mount Prospect, Illinois, a northwest suburb of Chicago.

Qualifications: FRAT membership. Administrative experience required; good supervisory, interpersonal, and computer skills. Knowledge of business including life insurance, investments, and marketing preferred. Competence in communication essential. Deadline for applications is April 2, so hurry! Send letter of application, résumé, and three letters of reference to:

Charles A. Giansanti, Chair
NFSD Search Committee
6817 Kerman Road
Seabrook, MD 20706
☎(301) 794-8404 (TTY)

As the chief coordinator of insurance programs, the Agency Director is responsible for the recruitment and training of field representatives as well as the sales program as a whole. Duties include record-keeping, distribution of commission checks, verification of membership applications, and communicating with the sales force and general public regarding FRAT's insurance programs. The Agency Director also assists with FRAT's annual report and other office projects as needed. S/he reports to the Grand President.

Qualifications: Comprehension of basic insurance programs, good mathematical skills, good organizational and interpersonal skills. Basic computer knowledge preferred.

Experience in making presentations and organizing workshops a must. Excellent communication skills required. Applicant must also have good writing skills. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Send résumé along with three letters of reference to:

Grand President Robert R. Anderson
NFSD Home Office
1300 W. Northwest Highway
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

For more information: ☎1-800-676-NFSD (TTY/Voice).

SMART MONEY

Merrill Lynch continues to be the leading (and only) firm in the financial community to promote and provide communication accessibility and specialized services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing population. In addition to the 6 toll-free lines listed here, Merrill Lynch also provides 5 different open-captioned videotapes as well as educational seminars provided by a network of 80 Financial Consultants equipped with TTYs and speech amplifiers.

☎1-800-765-4TDD: Referrals to TTY-equipped Merrill Lynch Financial Consultants, free financial brochures.

☎1-800-765-4HOH: Voice amplification for hard-of-hearing callers. Same as above.

☎1-800-333-4825 (TTY): 24-hour Bulletin Board Service (BBS)—Information on Merrill Lynch's economic and investment strategies (weekly), financial planning, estate planning, college planning, list of free financial brochures, etc.

☎1-800-262-3340 (TTY): Account updates (CMA, CBA, WCMA accounts only) from "live" representatives on latest balances, money transfers, to report missing or stolen cards or checks, etc.

☎1-800-262-2258: Voice amplification. Account updates. Same as above.

☎1-800-765-8331 (TTY): For customer-service issues (concerns, suggestions).

COLLEGE-BOWL VICTORY

Last February, four deaf students representing NTID excelled in a varsity competition at RIT—but their prowess° was academic, not athletic. **Alok Doshi** of Rockville, Maryland; **James Munro** of Ramsey, New Jersey; **Robert Rice** of Abington, Pennsylvania; and **David Tai** of Atlanta, Georgia, led NTID to victory in a campus College Bowl competition against teams representing RIT's colleges of Applied Science and Technology, Business, Imaging Arts and Sciences, and Science.

Dubbed "The Varsity Sport of the Mind" by national organizers, College Bowl is a question-and-answer game of quick recall played between teams of four students each. For the past 35 years, colleges and universities across the country have been fielding teams for campus, regional, and national competition. This was the second year that RIT participated in the tournament.

After preliminary rounds, the two top RIT teams—students from NTID and the College of Science—advanced to the finals. Although challenged by strong contenders (the College of Science team won last year's College Bowl regional championship), the NTID team emerged victorious after three competitive rounds.

prowess: superior skill or ability.

**Just for the record, NTID's full name is the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and it's one of 8 colleges of Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.*

MEET ME IN ROSARITO

Rosarito is a delightful resort community in Baja California, about 18 miles south of the U.S. border near San Diego. Currently enjoying a building boom, Rosarito has new hotels, shopping centers, restaurants, and houses. Its lovely beaches attract surfers, swimmers, and sunbathers. Miles of uninterrupted sand provide a perfect setting for horseback riding, jogging, or strolling.

The World Recreation Association of the Deaf (WRAD)-Mexico and WRAD-USA are sponsoring a weekend of fun in Rosarito, May 21-23. The site is Rosarito Beach Hotel, which has attracted many Hollywood stars and society notables through the years. (You'll want to come back again and again!)

Activities include surfing, volleyball, tennis, jogging on the beach, racquetball, special programs, games, and contests. There's a huge pool, great for socializing, and a Jacuzzi. Friday and Saturday night are party times. The "Fiesta Mexicana" features delicious buffets and floor shows.

For rates and more information, contact the WRAD Office at ☎(805) 943-8879 (TTY); ❐(805) 943-6112 (FAX). Voice callers can use the California Relay at ☎1-800-735-2922. Address: P.O. Box 3211, Quartz Hill, CA 93586.

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A LITTLE FLING AT EURO DISNEY

What's the most spectacular entertainment experience in the world? For some, it's Euro Disney. The Euro Disney Resort features a magical theme park and a dazzling nighttime entertainment centre just 32 kilometres (20 miles) east of Paris. WRAD-Europe, under the direction of **Henri Corderoy du Tiers**, WRAD-Europe Commissioner of Paris, is planning a fun-filled weekend of Euro Disney and WRAD-related activities on August 15 and 16.

The program begins on Sunday, August 15, with a check-in

at Hotel Cheyenne, one of 8 hotels in the theme park. Dinner will be at the Chuck Wagon Café, followed by a get-acquainted party with deaf people from all over Europe. On Monday, August 16, participants will have breakfast at the hotel, then spend the whole day in the theme park. (Sign-language interpreters will be provided for some of the shows.) They'll have lunch there together and a group picture, then dinner at the Buffalo Bill Restaurant. Afterwards, they'll watch the electrical-light parade and fireworks. Tuesday, August 17, is checkout day.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other deaf people, especially if you plan to be in Europe for the World Games for the Deaf.

For more information about the Euro Disney trip, contact the WRAD Office at the above number.

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THE ONLY WAY TO TRAVEL

WRAD-USA is sponsoring a river-rafting adventure trip on the Colorado River at Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona in June 1994.

Sally Tucker, WRAD-USA Special Interest Group Coordinator, is chairing the planning committee. She was Chairlady of last year's successful Houseboating Trip at Lake Powell, Arizona, and has participated in many of WRAD's outdoor committees.

Next year's trip will start at Lee's Ferry just below Lake Powell, and end at Pearce Ferry above Lake Mead, Nevada—covering about 240 miles in 8 days. Interpreters will be provided. It's limited to 28 people (2 rafts). DeafStar Travel is coordinating the trip. For reservations and cost information, contact Sally Tucker at ☎(818) 364-8768 (TTY) for more information, or write: WRAD-USA, Grand Canyon Rafting Trip, P.O. Box 3211, Quartz Hill, CA 93586.

ROLL OUT THE BARREL

The Grateful Deaf Homebrew Society, a new homebrew club and member of the American Homebrewers Association, is sponsoring the First National Deaf Homebrew Competition, to be held in Portland, Oregon. It's open to any and all Deaf and hearing-impaired amateur homebrewer. There are 10 categories, with a limit of one entry per category per person.

All monies received in this competition, after expenses, will be donated to Camp Taloali, a camp for deaf children near Stayton, Oregon.*

For entry forms, rules, and information on fees, write:

The Grateful Deaf Homebrew Society
c/o Ken Fisher
5025 S.W. Pasadena #2
Portland, OR 97219
☎(503) 245-1795

Entries must be sent to:

The First National Deaf Homebrew Competition
c/o F.H. Steinbart Company
234 S.E. 12th
Portland, OR 97214

All entries must be received by the Steinbart Company by 1:00 p.m., January 8, 1994. Beer judging will be held before January 23. Winners will be announced at The Grateful Deaf Homebrew Society's Second Annual Superbowl Party on January 23rd or 30th (depending on the date of Superbowl XXIII).

(*See our November 1991 cover story on World Deaf Timberfest X.)

INNER BLISS MADE ACCESSIBLE

"Within each human being lies a supreme power. When awakened, it can fill one's life with great joy and reveal the deepest meaning of existence." This is the teaching of Siddha Yoga Meditation, an ancient path of yoga in which a person can experience this power.

Meditation is the process of making the mind quiet so that individuals can experience the inner bliss that is their own true nature. Until recently, it was difficult for Deaf people to get information about meditation and yoga. Some Deaf people are surprised that they face no barriers in meditation. To meditate, it isn't necessary to hear.

The Siddha Yoga Meditation Ashram in South Fallsburgh, New York, will offer a Deaf meditation weekend May 14, 15, and 16. The ashram° is located in the heart of the Catskill Mountains, 2 hours north of New York City. People come to the Ashram from around the world to experience its unique energy which aids meditation, and to be in the presence of Gurumayi **Chidvilasananda**, of the ancient lineage of Siddha Masters. Programs at the Ashram are interpreted into a dozen languages, including ASL. The weekend will give participants the opportunity to meditate and learn about practices that lead to discovery of the bliss of the "Inner Self."

For more information, call ☎(212) 661-6196 (TTY).

ashram: from a Sanskrit word meaning "secluded building, residence of a guru;" a Hindu religious retreat or commune, usually rural.

THE ONES THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY

Mike Captain of Milwaukee, a deaf postal worker, sent us an account of how he caught two blue marlin off Hawaii. This is an adaptation:

For quite some time I'd been thinking of fishing for blue marlin off Kona on the south Hawaiian coast. Finally, I made a reservation and flew out on July 14. The flight to Hawaii took 9 hours from Milwaukee. When I arrived, I picked up my

rental car straightway and drove to a reserved room at the Seaside Hotel.

*The next day, I drove to the Charter Boats Area and met Captain **Kip Taylor** and his mate **Jesse**. We set out at 7:30 in the morning, and caught several small tunas to use as live baits for marlin. Jesse put about 3 inches of hook on the live tunas, then threw them back in the water. He set up two big reels on the boatrails, one bait for the surface and another for 60 feet deep. Several hours later we were "hit" but missed twice. Later we were hit again. I ran to the chair and put on a life jacket. Jesse put the rod in the center of the reel and 15 minutes later, the line broke. The crew said it was probably a shark, but we didn't know how big it was. A few minutes later we were hit again. I fought with this one for about half an hour. It was a blue marlin. When it got close to our boat, Jesse put the gaff into its lower jaw and pulled it in. Kip came down from the bridge and clubbed it on the head with a bat to kill it. It weighed 298 pounds and was 117 inches long.*

The next day, I went out again with the same shipmates and caught several small tunas for bait. We saw marlin swimming on the surface, but missed them. A few minutes later we got hit, and again, I fought with a marlin for more than a half hour until it reached our boat. Once again, Jesse used the gaff to bring it on board. This one weighed 297.5 pounds and was 127 inches long.

On my last day, July 17, we went out again at 7:30 in the morning. We were hit half an hour later, and I fought with the fish about 15 minutes. Jesse netted it and brought it on board. It was a wahoo (ono) weighing about 20 pounds, 46 inches long. I didn't catch any more fish the rest of the day.

So in 3 days of fishing I caught two blue marlin and a wahoo. Not bad. One marlin and the wahoo are now mounted in my living room. (I got them back from the taxidermist in December.) A memorable experience, and, for me, a dream come true.

"THE PROMISE OF A CURE"

The Deafness Research Foundation (DRF) has made an honored-grant award to **Mark E. Warchol**, Ph.D., Department of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery, University of Virginia. Dr. Warchol is currently working in an exciting new area of research which can offer millions of hard-of-hearing Americans a promise of a cure for their hearing loss. This grant award was made possible by The Samuel Rosenthal Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio.

Sensorineural hearing loss affects 80% of the 28 million Americans in this country who are hard-of-hearing. While sensorineural hearing loss is more commonly referred to as "nerve deafness," the most frequent cause of this loss is damage to tiny sensory hair cells in the inner ear.

"Our senses of hearing and balance depend on a fixed number of sensory hair cells which are located in the inner ear," stated Dr. Warchol in his proposal. "These cells convert sound and movement into electrical signals that are sent to the brain. Once these vital cells are damaged through exposure to loud noise, the toxic effects of certain drugs, or simply through the aging process, permanent hearing loss results. Hearing loss due to damaged or lost hair cells is a leading cause of hearing and balance disorders today."

In recent years, scientists have made a remarkable discovery. Several species of birds and reptiles were found to be capable of regenerating these vital hair cells. Since this discovery, researchers have been dedicated to understanding this regeneration process in the hope of reproducing such a process in the human ear.

In a previous study, Dr. Warchol showed that mature guinea pigs can produce new hair cells in the balance organs in response to injury. The discovery of a self-repair mechanism in the adult mammalian ear was largely unexpected, and it represents a major step towards the goal of inducing regeneration of sensory hair cells in the human ear. Dr. Warchol's current study follows up on that discovery by attempting to identify chemical growth factors that control the production of hearing and balance sensory cells.

The trustees of the Samuel Rosenthal Foundation felt that this was an excellent opportunity to invest in some of the most innovative and promising research in hair-cell regeneration. Dr. Warchol's proposal received one of the highest ratings for funding by the DRF Scientific Review Committee.

WHAT'S NEW AT BHI

Shari Lews and Lamb Chop

Upcoming PSAs: Shari Lewis, who hosted a "better-hearing" telethon a decade ago, again plans to promote "hearing-help awareness" in new Better Hearing Institute television public-service announcements (PSAs) made possible by a grant from Resistance Technology.

Her ***Lamb Chop's Play Along***, of all children's shows on PBS, was outrated only by ***Sesame Street*** one month after its 1992 debut. This half-hour program targets children from 4 to 8 with music, games, stories, and escapades of Lamb Chop, Charlie Horse, and Hush Puppy. ***Play Along***, airing on more than 250 public-television stations across the country and covering 93% of all U.S. television households, was selected by **TV Guide** as one of the three best learning series now available on television.

Lewis has been entertaining millions of children and their parents for more than 30 years. She is an accomplished actress, producer, orchestra conductor, recording artists, ventriloquist, puppeteer, and author. She has received many honors, including 7 Emmys, a Peabody Award, and the John F. Kennedy Center Award for Excellence and Creativity.

She's joined BHI's award-winning PSA series that has featured almost 100 hard-of-hearing personalities since 1973. Her PSAs will be released to 780 TV stations, networks, and cable outlets.

Said BHI President **Ross J. Roeser**, Ph.D., "We sincerely appreciate Shari Lewis's special help with our public-awareness efforts, as her messages will provide a new dimension and impact in spreading the better hearing message." This is Resistance Technology's second PSA grant in two years. The company also funded Dr. **Norman Vincent Peale's** television PSA last year.

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Pin Up & Plug In: BHI's popular promotional poster—featuring 16 prominent hard-of-hearing personalities—is being made available to "hearing-health-care" providers in Spanish, thanks to a special grant from Eveready Battery Company. The celebrities encourage people with "hearing problems" to "overcome" them as they did. The poster's 17" x 26" size is ideal for providers' offices as well as for display in store windows, malls, schools, and other public locations.

"We are all very excited about Eveready's grant for this new project," said Dr. Roeser. "Spanish is the most popular second language in the U.S., and we hope to get the funding to produce other materials in Spanish—and possibly French for Canada."

Eveready has funded many other BHI projects, including television PSAs starring former President Reagan, another featuring cameo° appearances by 10 prominent personalities, and others starring personalities who refused to let "hearing problems" stand in their way to success. Eveready, a major ongoing BHI sponsor, also provided grants for a current catalog of public-information tools, the first edition of BHI's "We Overcame Hearing Loss" celebrity booklet, and "Sounds of Silence" brochure.

cameo: a brief appearance in a movie, TV program, video, or commercial, by a star or celebrity.

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Hot Soles: Hearing-help providers representing medicine, surgery, audiology, hearing-aid manufacturing, and dispensing, are now training for the June 19th "Run for Better Hearing" in Duluth, Minnesota. The 26- and 13-mile events, being held in conjunction with Grandma's Marathon and the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon, will mark the 15th annual fundraising campaign organized by "hearing-field" volunteers on behalf of BHI public-information projects.

"Our team personifies° the interdisciplinary support that makes BHI the hearing field's most cost-effective public-education program," said Dr. Roeser, who has participated in four Runs. The Run is a fundraising effort to strengthen BHI "hearing-awareness" projects, which have earned the equivalent of approximately $242 million in donated broadcast time and print-media space since 1973.

Organizing and coordinating this year's campaign is a steering committee that includes **Al Bruce**, Chairman, Starkey Labs; **Jim Anderson**, Qualitone; **Bill Hodgson**, 3M/Hearing Health; **Jim McFarland**, industry consultant; **Bud Raas**, Earmold Design; **Tom Yates**, Rexton; and **Mike Winship**, Hearing Services International. Dr. Roeser praised them for "their tireless efforts in organizing the event for 15 consecutive years."

Major Run contributors include: The Academy of Dispensing Audiologists, Active Electronics, American Academy of Audiology, American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery, American Auditory Society, Argosy Electronics, AudioScience, Audiotone Inc., Authorized Hearing Systems, Bausch & Lomb Hearing Systems, Beltone Electronics, Bernafon Inc., Best Labs, Duracell/Activair, Ensoniq Corp., Etymotic Research, Eveready Battery Company, Fidelity Hearing Instruments, Frye Electronics, Gennum Corp., Hal-Hen, **Hearing Instruments Magazine**, **Hearing Journal**, Hearing Services International, International Hearing Society, Industrial Training Systems, International Hearing Society, Knowles Electronics, Lori Medical Labs, 3M/Hearing Health, Magnatone Quality Hearing Instruments, Maico, Marcon Hearing Instruments, Microtech Hearing Instruments, Miracle Ear, Nu-Ear, Omni, OTO-SONIC, Phonak Inc., Phonic Ear, Precision Hearing Instruments, Qualitone, RAYOVAC Corp., RCI, Resistance Technology, Resound Corp., Rexton, Siemens Hearing Instruments, Sonotone Corp., Starkey Labs, United Hearing Systems, Unitron Industries, Viennatone/Minneapolis, and Widex. Supporting earmold labs include: All American Mold Labs, Earmold Design Inc., Emtech Labs, Microsonic, Mid-States Labs, Pacific Coast Labs, Precision Earmold Labs, and Westone Laboratories.

For Run participation or BHI's 20th Anniversary support information, call ☎1-800 EAR WELL (TTY/Voice).

personifies: serves as an example of.

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Future Plans: Encouraged by the $242 million worth of media exposure for "hearing help" messages since its founding, BHI has begun planning a new "awareness" campaign. "But none of us can rest on past laurels,° to solicit input from hearing-field leaders as we chart bold new programs to better serve the hard-of-hearing during the next generation," said Dr. Roeser.

Market researcher **Sergei Kochkin**, Ph.D., a BHI director and officer, has joined Executive Director **Joe Rizzo** in a series of meetings begun in February with chief executives of major hearing-industry manufacturers in northern New Jersey, Chicago, and Minneapolis. They will also seek input from leaders of interdisciplinary "hearing-field" organizations.

resting on past laurels (idiom): relying on one's past

achievements, becoming a bit lazy.

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NIDCD BOARD GETS A NEW CHAIR

Last February, the National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Board elected Dr. **Stephen Epstein** as its new chairperson.

The Advisory Board provides broad policy guidance to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). The legislative mandate requires the Board to review and evaluate NIDCD's national strategic-research plan for hearing, balance, smell, taste, voice, speech, and language. The Board also provides recommendations regarding the diverse programs of the Institute, which include research and research training related to disease prevention, health promotion, and rehabilitation of people with "communication impairments or disorders."

Dr. Epstein is nationally recognized as a specialist in pediatric otology. He also is Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery in Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery at the George Washington University School of Medicine, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery at Georgetown University School of Medicine. He received his M.D. in 1964 from the Chicago Medical School and completed his surgical residency at Providence Hospital and a residency in otolaryngology—head and neck surgery at the Washington Hospital Center, both in Washington, D.C.

He serves on the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, which consists of many organizations, including the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS), the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf (AGBAD). He is a member of the Advocacy Committee for the Early Identification of Hearing Loss, a joint venture of the AAO-HNS and AGBAD, and writes a question-and-answer column on the ear and hearing in **Newsounds**, AGBAD's monthly newsletter. In 1991, he received the Fowler Award in Otology from the New York League for the Hard of Hearing.

He replaces the Board's first chairperson, **Geraldine Dietz Fox**, who served as chair for the entire term of her appointment to the Board. Her interest in deafness led her to work tirelessly to galvanize support for the establishment of the NIDCD. In addition to serving four terms as Chairperson of the National Advisory Board, Mrs. Fox has served as the Executive Director of the Friends of the NIDCD, an organization that supports expanded development of research and training for the NIDCD and promotes public awareness about disorders of the NIDCD's seven research areas.

Dr. **James B. Snow**, Jr., Director of the NIDCD, said, "We are delighted to have Dr. Epstein as the new chairperson of the National Advisory Board. He brings a strong commitment to the research activities of the NIDCD and through his leadership, the Board will continue to provide guidance as we work toward understanding the biomedical basis and behavioral impact of communication disorders to try and reduce the burden of these conditions."

Dr. Epstein said, "Being elected Chairperson of the National Advisory Board is a great honor, both as a physician and as an individual with a hearing loss. It gives me the opportunity to make a major contribution to the NIDCD involving all areas concerned with human communication."

Background: The NIDCD is one of the institutes of the National Institutes of Health in the Department of Health and Human Services. The NIDCD supports and conducts biomedical and behavioral research and research training on "normal" and "disordered" mechanisms of hearing, balance, smell, taste, voice, speech, and language. The NIDCD achieves its mission through a range of research performed in its own laboratories, a program of research grants, individual and institutional research-training awards, career-development awards, center grants, and contracts to public and private research institutions and organizations.

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"CURRENT SCIENTIFIC THINKING"

Here's an announcement from **William H. Hall**, Director of Communications, Office of Medical Applications of Research, Public Health Service, dated February 5, 1993. Note the terminology (theirs).

There is a clear need in the United States for improved methods and models for early identification of hearing impairments in infants and young children. Approximately 1 of every 1,000 infants is born deaf. Many more children develop some degree of hearing impairment by the age of 3. Reduced hearing acuity° during infancy and early childhood interferes with the development of speech and language skills. Moreover, delayed identification and intervention may impede° the hearing-impaired child's ability to adapt to life in a hearing world or prepare for life in the hearing-impaired community [sic].

The knowledge and methods for the early identification of childhood hearing impairment exist. Nevertheless, across the United States, the average age of identification remains close to 3 years. Lesser degrees of hearing loss may go undetected even longer. Unfortunately, much of the crucial period for speech and language development has passed by the age of 3.

Infant-hearing screening has been approached with a number of different test methods, including cardiac-response audiometry, respiration audiometry, alteration of sucking patterns, movement or startle in response to auditory stimuli, measurement of acoustic reflexes, and, more recently, auditory brain-stem response (ABR) audiometry. In addition,

recent attention has turned to otacoustic emissions, a fast, inexpensive, noninvasive screening method for testing infants' hearing. Each method is effective in its own way, but technical or interpretive limitations have impeded widespread application. Moreover, these approaches vary widely in their sensitivity, specificity, and predictive efficiency in identifying hearing impairment.

Today, most neonatal screening programs are focused on infants who satisfy one or more of a number of criteria for inclusion in a "high-risk registry." The preferred screening method has come to be ANR, combined with audiologic followup for those infants who fail the screening protocols.° Despite the relatively good predictive efficiency of ABR, its cost, time requirements, and technical difficulties have discouraged the general application of this method in screening the far larger newborn population not meeting high-risk registry criteria. This approach misses 50 percent of hearing-impaired infants.

Because of these issues, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communicative Disorders and the Office of Medical Applications of Research, National Institutes of Health (NIH), are planning a Consensus Development Conference on Early Identification of Hearing Impairment in Infants and Young Children. The meeting will be held March 1-3, 1993, at NIH.

Consensus Development Conferences at NIH bring together medical experts and others to assess the safety and efficacy° of drugs, devices, and procedures. These conferences differ from standard scientific meetings in that a panel of medical specialists and generalists considers data presented by experts on the specific technology or issue under review.

A consensus statement, written by the conference panel, addresses° a set of questions regarding the safety and effectiveness of the technology being evaluated. The statement is circulated widely to the medical profession, the public, the lay media, and medical publications.

Early Identification of Hearing Impairment in Infants and Young Children was held from March 1 to 3 in the Masur Auditorium of the NIH Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and was open to the public.

According to the conference flyer, key questions addressed were:

1. What are the advantages of early identification of hearing impairment and the consequences of late identification?
2. Which children (birth through 5 years) should be screened for hearing impairment and when?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of current screening methods?
4. What is the preferred model for hearing screening and followup?
5. What are the important directions for future research?

This conference brought together specialists in otolaryngology and other relevant fields. On the first 2 days, experts presented current scientific thinking about the diagnosis, management, and prevention of hearing impairments in infants and young children, and concerned voluntary organizations were invited to make statements. On the third day, after considering the scientific evidence, the consensus panel presented its draft report and invited comments from the audience. **Gregory J. Matz**, M.D., Chairman, Department of Otolaryngology, Loyola University Medical Center, chaired the panel.

We don't yet know if anyone from the Deaf Community attended.

acuity: sharpness; good response.
impede: obstruct; harm.
protocols: here, the correct procedures.
efficacy: usefulness, effectiveness.
addresses: deals with.

BROWSING THROUGH THE GALLERY

Riot IV **(1983), by Leon Golub (American, b. 1922), acrylic on canvas (120" x 186"). One of the many works in the newly-installed contemporary galleries on the fifth floor of the West Wing at The Brooklyn Museum.**

A significantly expanded installation of the permanent collection of contemporary art of The Brooklyn Museum inaugurated a large portion of the 5th-floor galleries in the newly-renovated West Wing. It marked the second phase in the floor-by-floor opening of the 3 floors of exhibition space that have been redesigned by the architectural team of Arata Isozaki & Associates and James Stewart Polshek and Partners, which will culminate in the full opening next November.

The reinstallation consists of more than 50 works in a wide range of media, including paintings, photographs, works on paper, and sculptures. The galleries are being installed chronologically with works from 1946 to 1992.

At the 5th-floor elevator lobby, visitors are greeted by *Titi in Window*, *Evie and Hazel*, *Luis's Mother* (1986-87), life-size

sculptures by John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres. The chronological presentation begins in the second and largest gallery with important works by Abstract Expressionist artists, including *Personage* (1956), a wood sculpture by Louise Nevelson, and *Premonition of Evil* (1946), a painting by Adolph Gottlieb. This is followed by works by the New York School of artists, including the paintings *July* (1956), by Larry Rivers, and *East Side Sunday* (1956), by Grace Hartigan. Another section of the main gallery contains different representations of the figure, among them *Very Large Head* (1958), a bronze sculpture by Eduardo Paolozzi; *Girl on a Chair* (1970), a plaster-and-wood sculpture by George Segal; and *Female Model on Platform Rocker* (1977-78), a large-scale oil painting by Philip Pearlstein.

Another grouping in the main gallery comprises works that explore various aspects of nature and topography, among them *Ocean Park No. 27* (1970), an oil painting by Richard Diebenkorn; *Everlasting Waterfall* (1989), an oil painting by Pat Steir; *Brooklyn in Flames* (1986), a small oil and acrylic on board by Mark Innerst; and *Terre* (1988), Deborah Butterfield's painted steel sculpture of a horse.

Toward the end of the installation is a grouping of works addressing political concerns, among them *Riot IV* (1983), a monumental painting by Leon Golub; *Pretend #2* (1990), a triptych of photographs with silkscreened text by Adrian Piper; and *Small Graphic Reactor* (1986), a large-scale work in acrylic and graphite on canvas by William T. Wiley.

The final 5th-floor exhibit contains the exhibition of a promised gift by Leon Polk Smith of 27 of his works, spanning his more than 5-decade-long career. It opened simultaneously with the reinstallation of contemporary art and will remain on view through January 2, 1994.

How to get there: The Brooklyn Museum is located at 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, New York 11238. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Closed on major holidays. Take the Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop. Or take the Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street and cross platform to Seventh Avenue express. Or take the D or Q to Seventh Avenue stop (four subway stops from SoHo), walk around Grand Army Plaza, and one block up Eastern Parkway. Take buses B71, B41, B69, and B48. On-site parking available. For information on upcoming exhibitions and events, contact: Public Information Department, ☎(718) 638-5000 (Voice).

PRISONERS' PEN-PAL EXCHANGE

Earl Corey
H27523 2385X
California Men's Colony
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

"I am a hearing-impaired inmate here at C.M.C. I am 32 years old and also come from a family that are all Deaf likewise."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Anthony N. Critsley II
186133
Marion Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 158 (686)
Lowell, FL 32663-0158

Would appreciate deaf pen-pals. "I rarely receive any letters except from my family. I appreciate any endeavors you may find out and I look forward to your response."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Evelio Torres
E. 98591 A-Q 2238
California Men's Colony
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

"I'm in state prison doing 10 years. I'm harmless, full Deaf. I come from Deaf family."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Richard Valentine
C57095, Rm. #6291
California Men's Colony
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

"I'm 5' 10" tall, about 175 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes, clean-cut and clean-shaven. Definitely not a prison [type]. I like the beach, camping, fishing, and just spending time with friends. I'm a good friend, and a good listener, and I am genuinely interested in other people's points of view. I'll be happy to correspond with both guys and girls, and although I'm not able to send pictures of myself, I'd like them to send pictures of themselves. I prefer people with disabilities, deaf, blind, or any problem. I have a retarded brother, so I understand how difficult it can be."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

James D. Wardlow, Cell 6111
E-40846
California Men's Colony East
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

"I am 27 years old, 6' 2" tall and 200 pounds. I like a lot of deaf friends; thus, I am not picky. I will be here for another 3 years, then I will go back to San Diego where [I've lived] all my life."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

William Williams
E. 27171
California Men's Colony—East 6119
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

"I am a 28-year-old white male who likes sports, horseback riding, camping. I was raised on a small farm in Colorado."

BITS & PIECES

☞**Switched Number:** The Lesbian & Gay Community Switchboard/Arizona AIDS Information Line has a new TTY number: ☎(602) 234-0873. When the Switchboard relocated on January 1, the telephone company changed its TTY number, so the Switchboard can no longer be reached at (602) 234-0937. Please make note of the new number. Executive Director Paul D. Cain says: "Any questions or comments on the Swtichboard's TTY service, or anything else with which we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us." (We made the initial announcement in our November 1992 "Bits & Pieces.") The address is: P.O. Box 16423, Phoenix, AZ 85011-6423.

☞**Hot Topics:** The CDC National AIDS Hotline has six new HIV/AIDS fact sheets available providing information on statistics and transmission information about each topic. Four fact sheets focus on the effect of the HIV epidemic on women, health-care workers, adolescents, and minority groups. Also available are two fact sheets detailing the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) presentation activities and the scope of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States. To order any of these fact sheets, call the CDC National AIDS Hotline TDD Service at ☎1-800-243-7889. The TDD Hotline also provides HIV/AIDS information, referrals, and free pamphlets and posters. Write or call:

P.O. Box 13827
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
☎(919) 361-8466 (TTY) ☎(919) 361-8430 (Voice)

☞**Be Properly Listed:** New England Telephone is publishing and mailing out a new TTY Directory this summer. If you're correctly listed in the 1992 directory, there's no need to contact New England Telephone; the listing will be the same in the 1993 edition. Any changes in your listing—address, name, or telephone number—should be given to the address below. The deadline for ALL changes is April 30. Write or call:

Customer Contact Center for Individuals with Disabilities
New England Telephone
251 Locke Drive
Marlboro, MA 01257
☎ 800-974-6006 (TTY/Voice)

☞**Moonlight & Signs:** Deaf Adult Services, a program of Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center, is offering a Signing Naturally class, designed to help upper-level sign-language students and those fluent in signed English to make the transition to ASL. Classes are currently held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Evening sign-language classes at various levels (e.g., beginning, intermediate, and advanced) are also offered at several locations. For more information, contact DAS at ☎(716) 885-DEAF (Voice), ☎(716) 885-4955 (TTY), on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for registration information and upcoming class schedules. ❐(716) 885-3384 (FAX). Address: 487 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202.

☞**ADARA Conference:** American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA) is holding its 1993 Biennial Conference in San Francisco at the Grand Hyatt on Union Square, May 25-29. *Theme is Cultural Pluralism: Empowerment through Mutual Understanding*. ADARA is a coalition of a national organization, local affiliates, professional sections, and individual members working together in support of Deafness, social services, and rehabilitation-service provision. Service providers, rehabilitation counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, mental-health counselors, peer counselors, school counselors, communication therapists, and advocates are encouraged to attend. For general information, contact **Daniel J. Langholtz**, ☎(415) 476-7600 (TTY); ☎(415) 476-4980 (Voice).

☞**Razzle-Dazzle Women:** Attention, Deaf Women Entertainers, Performers, Dancers, Storytellers, Filmmakers, etc.—the Entertainment Chairperson of the upcoming National "Deaf Women United" Conference (October 14-17, 1993) is looking for you. If you have a videotape of your performance, please send a copy. (N.B.—it will **not** be returned to you.) All videotapes will be used exclusively for selection purposes and erased after selection and announcements are made. Contact Ellen Roth, 58-21 43rd Avenue, #3C, Woodside, NY 11377. Or call ☎(718) 672-2069 (TTY/answering machine).

☞**Gala Masquerade:** Deaf Artists Against Child Abuse sponsored a gala banquet and masquerade on March 5 at The Odyssey in Granada Hills, California. It was a black-tie affair, "semi-formal masquerade attire required." ***A Journey Through Time...a Masquerade***, a one-act play and dance performance in ASL, was presented by Prism West & Friends. Interpreters were, of course, provided. Proceeds benefited Five Acres (Deaf Services Program) in working with deaf artists to create new educational materials on child-abuse prevention.

☞**End of the Inning:** As many of our readers have undoubtedly learned by now, the National Baseball Hall of Fame announced its latest inductees a couple months ago. "Dummy" Hoy was not among them.

CAPTION WATCH

"IF WE DON'T HAVE SPONSORS, THIS WILL END"

In New Orleans, supporters struggle to meet the high cost of real-time captioning

The following item originally appeared in Mark Lorando's "On the Air" column in the March 4 issue of ***The Times-Picayune****, and was titled* ***"For those who haven't heard the news . . ."****

WWL has joined WVUE in closed-captioning local news, leaving WDSU as the only network affiliate in New Orleans that has not [yet captioned] its local newscasts.

[Over a year ago, WVUE (Channel 8)] became the city's first captioned local-news source, and it's still the only station that captions all its daily newscasts, at 5, 6, and 10 p.m.

WWL [(Channel 4) is captioning its] 6 p.m. news only. But the Channel 4 captioning will have other distinctions. Cox Cable's ***Eyewitness Newswatch*** (channel 15) [is airing] WWL's 6 p.m. newscast plus the 6:30 and 7 p.m. replays [with open captions], so that all Cox Cable subscribers [can get the captions], and not just those with [TeleCaption decoders and decoder-chip TV sets].

And WWL [uses] "real-time" captioning transcribed live by court reporters on the set. By contrast, Channel 8 captions only that material that is scripted prior to broadcast, which leaves significant gaps during live reports, interviews and ad libs.

"This allows us during emergencies—hurricanes, live-breaking news reports—to get the word out immediately," says Joe Raspanti, a local lawyer and the father of a deaf child who has spent four years campaigning for local-news captioning. "That's when the need is greatest."

That's also when the expense is greatest, which is Raspanti's problem. Once it had purchased newsroom computers and the necessary software, WVUE's closed-captioning bills had more or less been paid. Because it uses court reporters on a nightly basis, WWL's captioning costs will be ongoing and steep—roughly $60,000 per year, Raspanti said, to pay the court reporters and miscellaneous maintenance costs.

Although Freeport McMoRan and the Rosa Mary Foundation are financially backing the launch, Raspanti must line up year-round corporate sponsors. WWL has donated hundreds of hours of manpower, but the out-of-pocket money has to come from the community.

"If we don't have sponsors," Raspanti said, "this will end. It's that simple."

In return for their donations, WWL is identifying underwriters at the beginning and end of each newscast, a departure from the station's usual policy against newscast sponsorships.

Though Raspanti and the Deaf Action Center have made strides, he said he hopes the newscast captioning is the beginning rather than the end of their efforts.

"My goal is to have all local programs captioned," he said. The ***Angels*** show is considering captioning later this year and Raspanti would like to get ***Real New Orleans*** and the Sunday-night sports magazines on board as well.

Though [deaf] viewers obviously benefit the most,

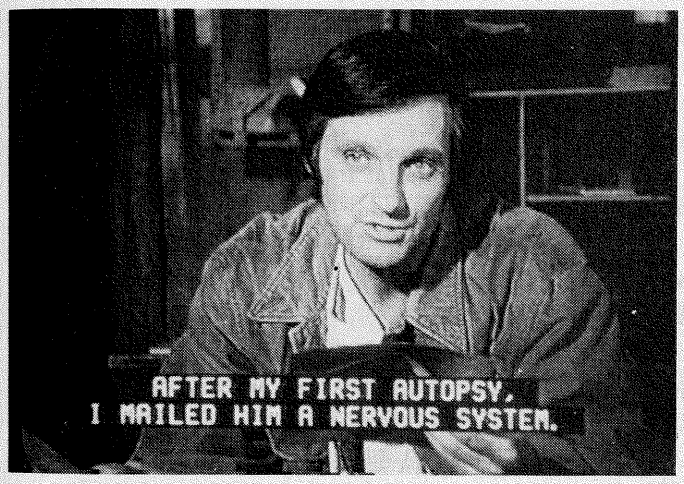
captioned programs can be just as valuable to viewers without disabilities. They help improve reading skills by allowing students to "read along" with their favorite shows. And they're gaining popularity in barrooms, where the television can be seen but not heard.

* This column originally appeared (in slightly different form) in the March 4 1993 issue of **The Times-Picayune**. Copyright © 1993, **The Times-Picayune**. Reprinted with permission.

Thanks to the Deaf Action Center of Greater New Orleans for faxing us a copy of Mr. Lorando's column. DAC's address is 1231 Prytania Street, New Orleans, LA 70130. ☎(504) 525-DEAF (3323) TTY; ☎(504) 525-7911 (Voice); ❒(504) 525-9826 (FAX).

RETURN OF THE 4077TH

*M*A*S*H* reruns—with a difference



Alan Alda as Benjamin "Hawkeye" Pierce

Starting last January, all of the classic episodes of the long-running CBS series ***M*A*S*H*** are accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing television viewers. The entire series is being closed-captioned by The Caption Center through a U.S. Department of Education grant for syndicated programming. ***M*A*S*H*** is being captioned in conjunction with a restoration project by Twentieth Century Fox Television. All the episodes are being digitally remastered, color-correcting each scene. The process involves an exact frame-by-frame match, giving the shows even better quality than when they were originally aired.

One of the most enduringly popular television programs of all time, ***M*A*S*H*** was a tragicomedy whose setting was the 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital during the Korean War (1950-53). After a rough start, it maintained good ratings throughout its 11-year run, and the final 2-1/2-hour episode, "Goodbye, Farewell, and Amen," which aired February 28, 1983, was the most widely-watched television program of all time. 77% of all people watching television tuned in.

M*A*S*H premiered in 1972, the year in which The Caption Center also made its debut.° Although at that time no commercial network shows were yet captioned, PBS' ***The French Chef*** became the first program accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers. As captioned programming expanded in the 1980s, one of the most-requested programs was ***M*A*S*H.*** Twenty years later, all prime-time programming and national news is captioned, and the amount of captioned programming, old and new, increases daily.

Alan Alda starred as Captain Benjamin Franklin Pierce ("Hawkeye"), a talented surgeon from Crabapple Cove, Maine. Other regulars included Wayne Rogers as Captain "Trapper John" McIntire, McLean Stevenson as Lieutenant Colonel Henry Blake, Loretta Swit as Major Margaret "Hot Lips" Houlihan, Larry Linville as Major Frank Burns, Gary Burghoff as Corporal "Radar" O'Reilly, William Christopher as Father John Mulcahy,

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and Jamie Farr as Corporal Max Klinger. Rogers and Stevenson left after the third season and were replaced by Mike Farrell as Captain B.J. Hunnicutt and Henry Morgan as Colonel Sherman Potter. After the fifth season Larry Linville also departed and David Ogden Stiers joined the show as Major Charles Emerson Winchester. Burghoff, the only cast member who had also appeared in the motion-picture version of ***M*A*S*H***, left the cast in 1979.

M*A*S*H was created by Gene Reynolds and Larry Gelbart, and based on a novel by Richard Hooker. It's aired by stations throughout the United States. Check local listings for air times.

*M*A*S*H* TRIVIA

1. *M*A*S*H* was one of the most popular television programs of all time. Was it a hit from the beginning?

No. It originally premiered on Sunday evenings where it did not do well and was almost canceled. For its second season CBS placed it between two other legendary TV comedies, ***All in the Family*** and ***The Mary Tyler Moore Show***,* where it enjoyed great success.

2. What character was played by a different actor in the pilot?

William Christopher, who portrayed Father John Mulcahy, the earnest and hardworking chaplain of the 4077th, was not in the pilot. For that show, the role of Father Mulcahy was played by George Morgan.

3. Which major character in *M*A*S*H* was killed in the war?

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Blake (McLean Stevenson). In the episode "Abyssinia,° Henry," Blake received his discharge and his return flight home was shot down.

4. Who starred in the *M*A*S*H* spinoff, and what was it called?

AfterMASH brought together Henry Morgan, William Christopher, and Jamie Farr. They all became staff members at the John J. Pershing Veterans Memorial Hospital. In a reversal of what occurred with the original show, however, ***AfterMASH*** did very well its first season and dropped in the ratings in its second and last season. The last show aired in December 1984.

5. What character and actor in *M*A*S*H* shared the same name?

Lieutenant Kellye Nakahara, a nurse who had a recurring role, was played by actress Kellye Nakahara.

6. Which *M*A*S*H* star also wrote and directed episodes?

Alan Alda. In fact, he is the only person to have won Emmys for acting, writing, and directing.

7. Who directed and starred in the film version of *M*A*S*H*?

Elliott Gould and Donald Sutherland starred as Hawkeye and Trapper John, and Robert Altman directed.

8. Did *M*A*S*H* use a laugh track?

Yes and no. Scenes set in the operating room at the 4077th did not utilize laugh tracks. It was thought inappropriate for the setting. However, a laugh track was used for other scenes.

9. What major character got married during the course of the program?

Major Margaret Houlihan was married and divorced from Lieutenant Colonel Donald Penobscot (Beeson Carroll).

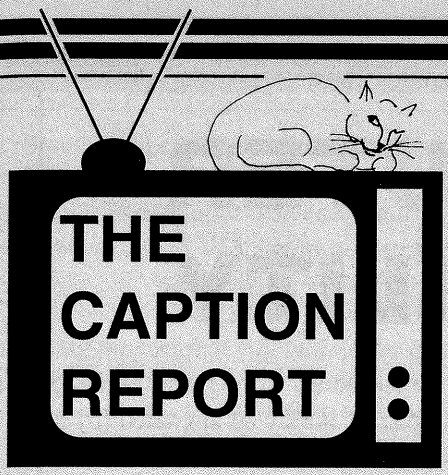
10. What stars got an early break in their careers by appearing on *M*A*S*H*?

Shelley Long, John Ritter, Joan Van Ark, Teri Garr, Patrick Swayze, and Brian Denehy. Among the established stars paying a visit to the 4077th were Susan Saint James, Ron Howard, Leslie Nielsen, Mariette Hartley, and Pat Morita.■

debut: first appearance; first airing.

*Also captioned by The Caption Center, airing on cable-TV's NICK at NITE. See "MTM Revisited," CaptionWatch, **DEAF LIFE Plus**, November 1992, p. 37.

Abyssinia: The old name for Ethiopia. Here, a pun for "I'll be seein' ya."



By Stuart Gopen

CABLE MOVIE CHANNEL SCORECARD

Percentage of captioned programming as indicated in the title index of **The Cable Guide**:

	DEC	JAN	FEB
HOME BOX OFFICE (HBO)	65%	60%	52%
CINEMAX	20%	26%	32%
THE DISNEY CHANNEL	32%	28%	30%
SHOWTIME	30%	32%	28%
THE MOVIE CHANNEL	18%	27%	28%

Company Spotlight

WORLDVISION HOME VIDEO, INC. is a company that releases a wide variety of entertainment on home video. Recently they instituted a policy of closed-captioning **ALL** their releases. Now you can look forward to such diverse titles as ***Sudie & Simpson***, a poignant, heart-rending drama about friendship and racism in the Deep South; ***Danielle Steel's "Fine Things"***; ***Question of Faith***, an inspiring story of a woman's battle with cancer; ***Tales from the Darkside—Volume 5***; ***Get Smart Again—The Movie***; ***Silent Motive***; and ***Sebastian Star Bear***, a children's program—all of which are being released between mid-March and early May. They certainly deserve a short note of congratulations for their new policy. Please write to:

✉✍ Mr. Gary Delfiner
Worldvision Home Video
1700 Broadway
New York, NY 10019-5992

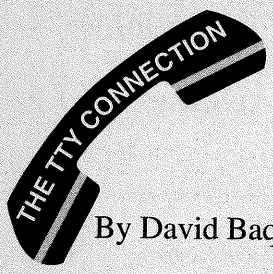
Little-known facts

Intruders, an almost 3-hour movie from **CBS Video** about people's experiences with UFOs and alien abductions, is **NOT** captioned, even though both the box and tape have the NCI logo!

Major captioned home-video releases

February

A League of Their Own
Sneakers
Death Becomes Her
Unlawful Entry
Honeymoon in Vegas
Single White Female
Mo' Money
Cool World
3 Ninjas
Rapid Fire
Light Sleeper
The Waterdance
South Central
Stephen King's "It"
Mom and Dad Save the World
Little Nemo—Adventures in Slumberland
Where Angels Fear to Tread
The Swordsman
Guncrazy
Invasion of Privacy
Murder in New Hampshire
Victim of Beauty
One Against the Wind
Duplicates
Faith
Delicatessen
Alien Intruder
Devlin
Forever Female
Murder Without Motive
Lady Killers
American Shaolin—King of the Kickboxers II
Where Sleeping Dogs Lie
Hostage
London Kills Me
A Hole in the Sky
Sherlock Holmes—The Hound of the Baskervilles
Sherlock Holmes—The Sign of Four
Treacherous Crossing
Apache Uprising
Boeing Boeing
Arrivederci, Baby!
A Breath of Scandal
Gentleman's Agreement
Buckskin
The Atomic City
Conquest of Space
Benji the Hunted
The Assassination Bureau
Desperate Characters
Flight of the Navigator
Godzilla—King of the Monsters
How Green Was My Valley
Here Come the Girls
The Last Safari
Mr. Music
Never Cry Wolf
Rodan
Tron
Weight Watchers' Easy Shape Up (3 tapes)
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (4 new episodes)
Thomas the Tank Engine—Thomas, Percy and the Dragon
Shelley Duvall's Bedtime Stories (3 new episodes)
The Little Mermaid—Ariel's Undersea Adventures (3 tapes)
Goof Troop (3 tapes)
For Our Children—The Concert
Great Chefs (2 new programs)
Michael Jordan—Air Time



TTY/COMPUTER COMPATIBILITY

By David Baquis

Your TTY is more than a phone. It can be the gateway to a new electronic world around you—**if** you obtain the right kind of TTY or computer terminal. As we are in the dawn of an unbelievable information age, it is wise to obtain a computer modem, which enables you to connect with a vast network of services and people. Text-telecommunications is certainly one medium where deaf and hearing people can meet on a common ground. Everyone should take full advantage of this opportunity. The Washington, D.C.-based Alliance for Public Technology emphasized this at their recent annual meeting. Examples of benefits include shopping, entertainment, employment, and meeting people—all over the phone. You can even earn a Master's degree from a distant university without ever entering a classroom!

Of course, using a computer modem means that you need a computer. If you don't have one already, don't worry. The products necessary to set up a computer terminal at home are more economical and user-friendly[1] than ever before. Many articles, books, and services are available to help novice[2] computer users become knowledgeable about the variety of computer products available.

However, two problems need to be clarified and addressed[3] with regard to these machines: 1.) Most TTY users cannot *access* (enter) these interesting and important information networks because their TTYs don't transmit the right tones, and 2.) Most computer users cannot communicate with TTY users because the computer modems don't generate TTY tones. These issues are discussed in deaf literature but often overlooked by computer consultants.

The most frequent computer-related question **I** hear is *"How do I use my personal computer to communicate with a TTY?"* Unfortunately, the two devices are usually incompatible.[4] However, there **is** a way to link the two terminals by making a change at either end of the line.

First of all, you need to assess whether the TTY is, in fact, incompatible. Some TTYs have a special computer chip inserted in them that allows them to transmit computer language (known as *ASCII* and pronounced "ass-kee"). This would most likely be present if the TTY was recently distributed in a good public equipment-distribution program or if the consumer intentionally paid extra money to have the ASCII option added to their machine at the time of purchase. Some manufacturers now include ASCII as a standard feature of some models. Depending on the brand and model, if the TTY does not have this special feature, it may be upgraded (by a TTY-repair company) at an additional cost (about $50 to $100).

Assuming that the TTY in question (like **most** TTYs) transmits only TTY language (known as *baudot* and pronounced "bah-doe") and the TTY cannot or will not be upgraded, then you may consider an accommodation from the computer user's side. What many computer users do not understand is that they **cannot** simply program special instructions (*protocol*) to get their computer to talk TTY language.

The differences between the two machines are more complex than just the speed of transmission. The actual codes sent by each are different combinations of electronic bits. Unless the computer owners already use a special product from one of the companies listed below (not likely due to unpopularity), they must purchase new hardware and software to make their computer compatible with both TTY and computer users. Usually my callers have already invested in a product that takes care of most of their computer-telecommunication needs *except* the ability to communicate with their deaf friends. This need to obtain a second computer modem is frustrating.

Many computer users are shocked that a network of incompatible TTY terminals was allowed to proliferate.[5] I believe this problem got out of hand for a number of reasons, including the following:

a.) The baudot code used in modern TTYs was developed from old-style teletypewriters. I don't think the deaf community involved with distributing the large TTYs in the 1960s envisioned the explosion of inexpensive, portable terminals in use today or the availability of electronic information services for people with ASCII terminals.

b.) Computer-compatible TTYs are more expensive and consumers are always asking manufacturers to keep prices down.

c.) You may need extra training to use TTYs with ASCII and some people find the additional technical information intimidating.[6] (Yes, I *know* that people should not be assumed stupid.)

d.) Some deaf people (like it or not) expressed preference for an exclusive[7] network not to be shared with outsiders. (Incidentally, this attitude carried over into other issues, such as who had access to TTY directories in some areas.)

e.) The baudot (TTY) code actually has *some* advantages, including the fact that you will not be disconnected if put on hold by your party. Unlike baudot tones, ASCII (computer) tones are continuous and form an electronic "handshake," which can be easily lost. Much has been written on some of these issues, including the problems ASCII users have in trying VCO (Voice Carry Over) with relay services.

There is discussion to set standards for TTYs and computers to facilitate[8] their compatibility within the U.S. and internationally. At the moment there is one modem that links American TTYs and computers with some terminals in other countries.

The consumers who contact me are also upset about the cost of TTY/computer modems (several hundred dollars). I may address the specific differences in the features of these products in another article, since that will be much more technical. Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) actually published a detailed article on that several years ago. You may still order reprints from them. Some of the general principles still apply with regard to advantages and disadvantages of product types.

After listening to my 10-minute presentation on this, many computer users throw up their hands at the idea of making their computer work better and (because of their minimal need to talk to a TTY user) take my advice to purchase a reconditioned TTY for less than $100. If you want to know where to obtain a TTY that cheap or have any other questions, write to me at: Tele-Consumer Hotline, 1910 "K" Street, N.W., Suite 610, Washington, D.C. 20006.

[1] **user-friendly**: easy to use.
[2] **novice**: beginner; inexperienced.
[3] **addressed**: dealt with.
[4] **incompatible**: you can't use one to talk to the other.
[5] **proliferate**: multiply; spread.
[6] **intimidating**: scares people off; discourages them from continuing.
[7] **exclusive**: private.
[8] **facilitate**: make easier, speed up.

BAUDOT/ASCII COMPUTER MODEM MANUFACTURERS

(Updated January 1993)

IBM Special Needs Systems
P.O. Box 1328
Boca Raton, FL 33429-1328
☎ 800-426-4833 (TTY)
☎ 800-426-4832 (Voice)
❒ 800-232-9271 (FAX)

Microflip
11211 Petworth Lane
Glenn Dale, MD 20769
☎ 301-262-6020 (TTY/Voice)
❒ 301-262-4978 (FAX)

Phone-TTY
202 Lexington Avenue
Hackensack, NJ 07601
☎ 201-489-7890 (TTY)
☎ 201-489-7889 (Voice)
❒ 201-489-7891 (FAX)

Telecom International
393 Beach Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
☎ 415-343-3000 (TTY/Voice)
❒ 415-343-4314 (FAX)

Ultratec
450 Science Drive
Madison, WI 53711
☎ 800-482-2424 (TTY/Voice) [OUTSIDE WISCONSIN]
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❒ 608-238-3008 (FAX)

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